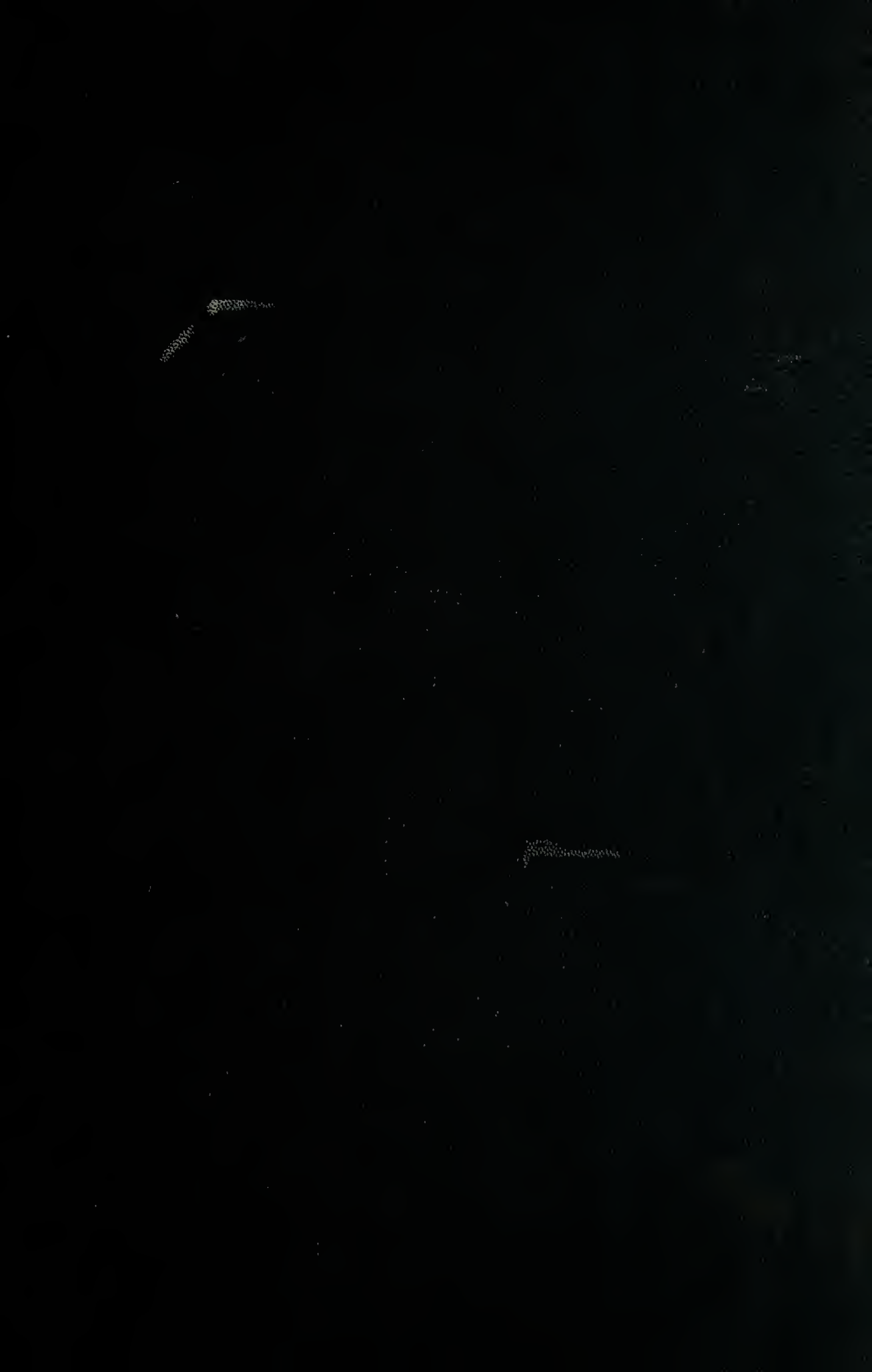

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THE

MEDICAL WORLD:

A JOURNAL OF

Universal Medical Intelligence,

BY

J. V. C. SMITH, M. D.,

AND

EDWARD SUTTON SMITH, M. D.

VOLUME II.

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THE

MEDICAL WORLD.

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

These three events are epochs in the history of individuals, and, aggregated, become of marked importance in the chronicles of the people in every country and age.

One of the indications of progressive intelligence, is recognized in the legislative desire to know the real physical, moral and mental resources of the State. To collect statistical facts of this character, characterizes the civilization of modern times. The ancients knew the number of soldiers in their armies, but the most advanced nations of antiquity seem to have been more ambitious in regard to reveneus and the extension of their territories, than to legislate for the protection or lives of men.

It is rather a recent custom that is growing up over this and the best governed European countries, to number marriages, or place a value on the records of the dead. Births are more difficult to keep accurately—simply because all fathers do not take the trouble to make returns to recording officers, and some mothers, from a combination of circumstances, do not choose to have them registered.

England not only led the way for this branch of study, but by her example, has positively encouraged others to pursue the same course; and the result will lead to a familiar acquaintance, ultimately, with the laws that govern health. There is a system which nature adopts for proportioning human beings to a certain extent of terrestrial surface, that doubtless bears a definite relation to the capacity of every region for producing sustenance for their support; untainted air for them to breathe and wholesome water for quenching their thirst.

Here in New England there is a developing interest in the progress of humanity—which in this sense simply means, the annual ratio of increase. When the advent of new beings exceeds the loss by death, in any given period, then the whole take courage. Their wants give activity to business, while the subdivision of labor conduces to the happiest condition of society. This condition is one of prosperity, as that of a decreasing population from any cause, is recognized as unfortunate.

Massachusetts has a registration law, but till towns are compelled, under a penalty that would make them wince, in case of a delay in furnishing a complete and circumstantial return to the Secretary of State, all that the act requires, the registration of marriages, births and deaths will be defective. Certainly so, when town after town is noticed as having paid no attention whatever to the sovereign behests of the General Court in this respect.

Cities, on the other hand, have an advantage, especially where the municipal ordinances are framed in a way to prevent a burial without first making an application and designating the place of interment. This, therefore, strictly speaking, is the only positively reliable record. There is, unquestionably, a pretty prompt transmission of the marriages, though the agency of the clergy; still many are solemnized, which are not recorded; and of births, no doubt all are inserted in the book, which are furnished.

Boston has a registrar organized precisely for the office he fills, with honor to himself and credit to his constituents. He has published a report of fifty-eight octavo pages, in which he has introduced an immense amount of information. Mr. Apollonio writes well.—There is a nice vein of philosophical reasoning in the commencement of his report to the City Council, that enhances his value, as a man of deep thought, and we opine that the servant is far superior to some of his official masters: —

But few people have a desire to embark in statistical research; and fewer still feel any

great interest in vital or mortuary statistics. Until late years, the discussion of vital statistics, and the subjects naturally associated with them, was almost wholly confined to physicians, and a few others, men of scientific attainments, who were deemed to have a peculiar aptitude for the dry details of figures and philosophical speculations. The great mass of mankind manifested but little desire to ascertain *how* they came into the world, still less to learn the probable chances of their continuance in it for a given time, and no appreciable thought concerning the mode of their egress therefrom. They know they *were* here, and that they must depart; beyond a knowledge of these two simple facts, they did not appear to consider it of any use to advance.

There are various interests of a community which would be materially subserved by a familiar acquaintance with vital statistics, and matters naturally allied to them. Some of these are obvious, and need but little by way of elucidation. In determining, as nearly as may be, the duration of human life, the augmentation and decrease of population, together with the causes of the same, and the character of the materials which make up population, sanative principles naturally assume their legitimate place, and necessarily become a matter for discussion. Whenever or wherever such discussions occur, these subjects at once rise to their just level of importance, and are followed immediately by those acts which are the characteristics of cultivated life. It requires but little effort to see how these in turn engender a multitude of wants, as well as increase the capacity to enjoy them.

It is well known that epidemics, as well as ordinary diseases, find the larger portion of their victims in cities. The cause of this is mainly attributable to density of population, and to the accumulation of filth, generally found in connection with such condition. While there is a general belief that populations so circumstanced are peculiarly exposed to the ravages of epidemics, there does not appear to be any just appreciation of the laws which govern health, the duration of life, &c., and, consequently, little practical benefit is experienced. This defect will be remedied in proportion as the subject shall be understood; and it will be understood just as soon as it shall cease to be treated as an abstruse or mere theoretical question, and be made to appear conducive to the material, moral, and intellectual welfare of the people.

The mode by which a knowledge of vital statistics is to be made effective, is scarcely less important than the subject itself. It is but a few years since a well-defined system of Registration was adopted and put into vigorous operation. The method previously in vogue was exceedingly crude, and very imperfectly carried out. More than one instance has come to the knowledge of the undersigned, since his assumption of the duties of his office, where severe losses have resulted to parties from inability to substantiate their just claims by documentary evidence of birth and marriage. An instance is remembered, where the incorrect registration of a name utterly vitiated an undoubted title to an estate. This latter fact, it is true, affects only the competency of those who had in charge the duty of registration; but it is worthy of mention, inasmuch as the failure to record correctly was as disastrous as would have been a failure to record at all.

There were fewer intentions of marriages by 147, in 1856, in Boston, than in 1855. Last year 2,536 were married, — with a falling off 319 from 1855. The favorite matrimonial ages appear to be between 21 and 25. There were 397 brides older than their husbands. There were twelve marriages of colored men to white women.

In Boston there were 5,922 births in 1856. Of these 3,053 were males, and 2,869 females. The city gained 106 new citizens from this source in the same year, over the previous one. In 1856 there were 4,253 deaths. It is quite obvious that the increase of population depends upon recruits from the country in one direction, and emigration from Europe in another.

Now as the transmission of property and estates is involved in this matter of registration, if no higher motive can actuate the legislature, it behoves that body to require greater punctuality of the towns and cities, in forwarding their records, or the State will fall immensely behind Boston in point of completeness in this department of statistics.

It is a melancholy reflection that the population of the whole globe is dropping into the grave. Those who walk the streets to-day, may pass away to-morrow. That mighty exhibition of life, activity and intelligence, which animates the whole,—controlling empires at one moment, is liable to be hushed into never-ending silence at the next tick of the clock. Millions alive in the morning, participating, directing and pursuing schemes of ambition, or struggling hard to keep them from starvation,

in a single hour are neither feared nor flattered, for the grave has received them, and their voices, their edicts and their prayers are alike forever beyond the ken of those who take their places.

While the earth remains, the appearance and exit of organized beings will be the same. Our acquaintance with the fact lessens the astonishment that would otherwise be apparent; but it is conceded that this perpetual change, with all its accompanying woes, conduces to the greatest amount of happiness for the whole.

ANCIENT HINDU DIRECTIONS FOR A PHYSICIAN.

When called to a patient, the practitioner is first to remark if there is still life and strength in the sick person; his age, temperament, and country, and this knowledge will modify the kind and quantity of medicine to be given.—As long as life remains in the root of the throat, and the senses remain perfect, the physician may give medicines, as the person, under such circumstances, may be cured. Even old, inveterate, and incurable diseases, may be alleviated by a judicious line of treatment. If, therefore, a practitioner, after the necessary examination, knows the disease, and that it may be cured even with difficulty, his duty is to endeavor to alleviate the sufferings of his patient. Should the allotted period of his life upon earth have expired, he will die, notwithstanding the best directed means for his recovery. It is proper, however, that much caution be used in the employment of medicine in fatal diseases, as a physician may alleviate pain, but cannot give life; and by administering medicines in such cases, without previously stating the danger the patient is in to his relations, he will only bring discredit on himself and on his profession. Taking such precautions, the practitioner may give medicine even when the patient is senseless, without any pulse, and only breathes.

The medicines proper for the individual case, and the manner in which it will be most proper to administer them, must be carefully observed; care must also be taken that the medicines be obtained from a good soil and neighborhood. Those from Himalaya Mountains are the best. The physician should, however, not only know the names, but likewise the various qualities of these medicines. For this purpose he should penetrate forests, and climb mountains, to examine them in their natural situations; and should not despise the information obtained from hunters and shepherds, who may have had opportunities of witnessing their effects.

The medicines should be collected on a fortunate day, and at a lucky hour. They should be gathered by the physician himself, with suitable prayers. Should a person of another caste touch or prepare the medicines, and not the physician who prescribes, they will be rendered inert, even should a Brahman have prepared them. When the proper medicine has been gathered and prepared in the prescribed manner and administered at the proper time, the effect will be as if Vishnu had administered, and enteredin to the body of the sick person; but the medicine will be of no use to the sick unless administered by a physician, as it will otherwise be like the lump of prepared clay, without the aid of the potter to fashion it. A physician should, therefore, be his own apothecary, preparing and prescribing those medicines which are peculiarly appropriate to each particular case, and being unknown to others, constitutes one of his peculiar excellences.

The qualities of medicines depend upon their color, smell, and kind of juice. The active power of medicine should be great, but the quantity small. These quantities should be carefully observed, and the medicines given at the proper season and stage of the disease.

The person's disease is then to be examined, the state of the humors and blood; the seven essential parts (dhatu,) and lastly the evacuations. He is next to decide on the nature of the disease, administer the proper medicines, and give directions regarding diet and regimen.

It is of much importance that the disease be treated at the proper time; and the patient be of the proper degree of strength to admit of the disease being cured. Active treatment should not be employed in a slight disease, nor a mild treatment in an acute disease. Should the treatment employed be doing no good, it should be changed; but when the symptoms are yielding under a particular plan of treatment, it should be continued.

That kind of treatment will be successful which diminishes the disease by equalizing all the humors; and that is bad treatment, which increases one as it diminishes another humor. The treatment should be commenced from the first appearance of the disease; as it is like

fire, poison, or the enemy, and a small portion deranges health.

Should a physician exhibit medicines the first day he has seen the patient, without properly ascertaining the nature of the disease, he will be like the angel of death (Yama.) Such medicines as cure vital air, bile, and phlegm when diseased, are not disagreeable to the person; do not produce any bad effects; and, given at the proper time, are the remedies to be employed. A Vaidya should prepare the medicines; although this is stated in other shastres to be the province of Brahmans. The susruta shastre says that any competent person may administer medicine, but the Vaidya declares whoever does not take medicine from this caste will go to hell. Even Brahmans are declared to have no authority in the practice of physic. Any other caste preparing or touching medicine, but the physician who orders its preparation, will render it inert.

Messenger and attendants. The person who is sent for the physician should not be of low caste, a fool, one of questionable veracity, or a great sinner; he should not appear before the physician distressed from fatigue, by a rapid journey, or appear to be fearful of the result of the sick person's ailment. The messenger who has his hair knotted, clothes old or wet, or is scantily or slovenly dressed, carries a cutting instrument, &c., as a sword or stick, holds ashes in his hands, will be as the angel of death. If he be a Dandi or Faqir, or is deformed, or defective in a member, or rides upon an ass, camel, or buffalo; or wears a band of red flowers round his neck, the prognosis is unfavorable. If the messenger has his body anointed with oil, or if covered with the deposit of a river, or blood be flowing from his body; or if he be of a bad temper or disposition, so as to speak hastily or indiscreetly, it will be unfavorable. If he rubs his shoulders, back, head, or hair with his hand while speaking, it will be like a decree of *Yama*, the angel of death. Should the messenger arrive so as to meet the physician on the south, and the physician not wishing to visit the sick; or if the messenger stands on one foot, sneezes, or stumbles at the patient or physician's house, these signs are unfavorable. Should he find the practitioner with his face turned towards the south; with cutting instruments near him; in an unclean situation; naked, bathing, eating, sleeping or making holes in any thing; these signs are unfavorable. It is also a bad omen when the messenger finds the physician preparing a body for the funeral pile, killing birds or the like, or boiling or preparing medicines with fire. Should the messenger arrive at the house of the physician at twelve at night, or at noon, or when certain stars are in the ascendant, the prognosis is unfavorable.

The messenger should always present a present to the physician. He should be of the same caste as the sick person, and should be dressed in clean white clothes, have a good appearance, and be strong and intelligent; of a mild disposition, and know the lucky seasons, and the shastres.

The medicines should be given by a healthy dependant, possessed of an amiable character, so as to prevent the machinations of the patient's enemies.

The friend who relates the progress of the disease must be exact in his descriptions, and be careful that the patient takes the medicines regularly.

Duty of the Patient. A person rejecting a Vaidya, or physician, will be punished in Hell; whereas when a Vaidya is employed, the patient will go to heaven, even should he not be able to see the sacred Ganges in his dying moments.*

The diseased person will carefully recollect the directions of the physician, must follow them with exactness, and must not be afraid of the effects of the medicines which have been ordered.

Should the disease commence at an unfavorable time, or if the physician visits the patient at night, or during an unlucky hour, or should he have been born at an unfavorable moment, the person will die of the disease. A patient with a good disposition, with his body of the natural color, and with the signs of longevity; who is patient, has a strong mind, senses perfect, with no fatal symptoms, and has confidence in his physician, is easily treated, and will the best chance of being cured. Should the patient be strong, the disease curable, and he has riches to defray the necessary expense, and follow the usual customs and directions of the physician; and his mind is favorably influenced by the shastres, and has faith in his physician, he will recover. The prognosis will be unfavorable when the sick person is impatient, angry, and disobedient; wanting in courage, is ungrateful, and desponds; also, with those who have confidence in the practitioner, fatal symptoms will quickly follow. Persons at enmity with the physician, and endeavor to deceive him, are cured with difficulty, and are

*Many respectable Hindus will only receive medicine, from a Vaidya.

to be avoided as much as possible. The patient will die who lives in the house of a person who despises the physician. The different appearances observed on the physician's approaching and leaving his patient will vary his prognosis.

The patient is to expect to be visited in the morning, after the customary prayers and ablutions, is to prepare the medicine as ordered, and is to sit in a clean, convenient part of the house for both the sick person and the physician.

Recompense of the Physician. When a physician has cured a disease he is entitled to the usual gifts for the performance of a good action. These will vary with the rank and condition of the patient. Money will be the recompense bestowed by the rich; friendship, reputation, increase of virtue, prayers, and gratitude will be that of the poor. When a Guru, a Brahman, or a Dandi, a relative, an humble and good friend, or one without relations consults a physician, he must not accept of any pecuniary recompense. His reward in such cases will be an increase of knowledge, and the gratification of his desires in having an opportunity of performing a good action.

DEFEAT OF AN ACTION FOR ALLEGED MAL-PRACTICE.

Hiram and Lydia A. Jones vs. *George E. and Elisha R. Belcher.* The charge in this case was that Dr. G. E. B. broke the neck of Mrs. J.'s thigh bone during parturition, while using the forceps. The defence was that no injuries were done during the labor, but that all Mrs. J.'s difficulties arose from *puerperal uterine phlebitis.* Dr. E. R. B., who was called in by Mrs. J. as consulting accoucheur, was included as one of the defendants, because, as stated by Mrs. J.'s counsel, he did not discover and properly attend to the injuries done by Dr. G. E. B.—really, no doubt to prevent him from acting as a witness.

On the part of the plaintiffs, the principal witness was a female friend, who came in to assist by her knowledge and experience, and was afterwards retained as nurse :—who testified that Dr. G. E. B., without waiting for regular labor pains applied the forceps, and violently thrust or sawed them alternately up and down! that before and during the time he was doing this, Mrs. J. had no pain or pains sufficient to cause a moan; that afterwards when by direction of Dr. G. E. B., she got her up from bed, she (Mrs. J.) complained of numbness and pain in her right leg, and on attempting to walk, her hip appeared to give way and her knee and foot turned out; that during the time of using the forceps, she sat on the bed and held Mrs. J.'s shoulders in her arms; that Mrs. J.'s limbs were not exposed, but covered; that there might or might not have been a lamp in the room; that she did not raise Mrs. J.'s clothes when she had her up, to examine her limb. She also, with others of Mrs. J.'s family, testified that this was Mrs. J.'s first confinement; that she was at the time aged about seventeen or eighteen years; that it occurred about Dec. 10, 1854; that her labor began about 1 o'clock on Saturday morning (Dec. 9), and that Dr. G. E. B. was in attendance most of that day, and all the following night, and first applied the forceps about 4 o'clock on Sunday morning, and that Dr. E. R. B. finally delivered her with forceps about 8 or 9 o'clock on that morning of a still-born child; that the child's head was uninjured, that she (Mrs. J.) afterwards suffered extreme pain in her right hip and leg, and could not allow it to be moved without extreme pain; that after the tenth day abscesses began to form in different parts of the body, in the left thigh, shoulder, and right hip, and that she had cough and raised matter freely; and that Dr. G. E. B. attended five or six weeks after Mrs. J.'s confinement. On the part of the plaintiffs, an aged doctor was also called, who testified* that there was solution of continuity of some kind; what it was, or how caused, he could not say; that he supposed the neck of the thigh bone might in a young person be fractured by pressing the knees asunder, although he had never seen or heard of a case; that he only knew any thing about phlebitis by what he had read; that he was however governed in his opinion by that of Dr. Parker; and that, now the abscesses have discharged, her health and limb are nearly restored, and she will be about as able to use her limb as if she had recovered from hip-disease.

Dr. Parker (Professor of Surgery, in Col. Phy. and Surg.) who was called to the stand by the plaintiffs and afterwards by the defendants, testified; that he was called in consultation to see Mrs. J. about five or six weeks (as he was informed) after her confinement; that pain and numbness in the hips and legs are of

* Burns was quoted as authority, p. 27.

frequent occurrence during and after parturition, and also in an attack of phlebitis of the uterine organs and the adjacent parts; that in every respect her condition could be explained *only by her symptoms being the result of a violent suppurative uterine phlebitis*, which was followed by abscesses in her lungs, on the left shoulder, left thigh, and within the right hip-joint; that it must have been terrible in its severity; that it was as likely to follow an easy as a hard labor; that patients suffering from phlebitis in this form — whether puerperal or otherwise — rarely ever lived even to this period; that after a careful examination, he could discover no mechanical injuries; that the leg was not shortened; that it was impossible to fracture the neck of the femur in a young person by the use of the forceps or by any violence that could be used under the circumstances in which Mrs. J. was placed; that fractures of the neck of the femur in young persons never occur excepting from severe and direct injury to the parts, such as from falls upon the hip, gun-shot wounds, &c.; that when in consultation with Dr. Perry, on account of the crepitus apparent in the hip-joint caused by pus destroying its cartilaginous surfaces, the questions were discussed whether there could be fracture, diastasis, dislocation, or abscess; that the three first were pronounced impossible; then when he last saw her, anchylosis had followed, which occurring in the hip-joint, was of itself proof that there could have been neither of these; and that her health was improving. Drs. Gilman (Prof. Obs. Col. Phy. and Surg.) and Nichols, who were also called for the plaintiffs; and Drs. Delafield, Clark and Watts (all of College Phy. and Surg.) Bolton and E. R. Belcher for the defendants essentially confirmed the testimony of Dr. Parker, and pronounced the theory of the plaintiffs impossible and ridiculous.

Dr. E. R. B., who was allowed to testify so far as he was not concerned, said that he first saw Mrs. J. about 5 o'clock on Saturday evening, by request, while Dr. G. E. B. absented himself, for two or three hours; then the os-uteri was relaxed, but only partially dilated, pains sluggish, and presentation natural; that he expressed as his opinion to his son, that he would have to be patient, although he thought instruments might probably be required; that Dr. G. E. B. is conversant practically with their use; that he again saw her on Sunday morning about 8 or 9 o'clock, found the head impacted, os-uteri fully dilated, and the parts moist and relaxed, applied the instruments, but with considerable difficulty, and delivered her; that there were no injuries done to the mother or child; that he, Dr. E. R. B., saw her again in about two weeks and found her suffering from metastatic, collections of pus,— the effect of phlebitis, the febrile stage of which had abated; that after her confinement, Mrs. J. flexed her knees, and arched her body, to allow him to apply the binder; and that not a word was said at any time to him about any injuries done to Mrs. J. or the child.

The father, mother, sister and brother-in-law of Mrs. J.—the whole or a portion of them —testified in substance that they heard no cries or moans from Mrs. J. indicating that she suffered pain while Dr. G. E. B. was using the forceps; that during the time she was under his charge and for a week or two afterwards, nothing was said implying that he had injured her in any way; and that for four or five days after her labor Mrs. J. was able to turn in bed, to be raised in a sitting posture, &c.

The judge (Woodruff) charged the jury, that abundant proof had been shown of the competency of the defendants; that no injuries had been proved as having being caused by them; that if any error of judgment had occurred, the defendants being proved to be competent physicians, should not be held accountable therefor; and that the jury should, in a case of this kind, base their decision upon the opinions of medical men who are informed upon the subject.

The jury of course gave a verdict for the defendants.

The medical treatment was scarcely referred to during the whole trial, the complaint being for the alleged injury in the delivery of the patient.—*N. A. Jour. Homœop.*

DELIRIUM FROM LOSS OF BLOOD.

Sometimes the reaction following excessive loss of blood is attended by a condition of the system which is characterized by various symptoms, among which, those having reference to the cerebral functions are prominent, such as somnolency, alternating with slight delirium; amaurosis, nervous tremor, jactitation, delirium or mania, — in puerperal females of a peculiar form of disturbance known as puerperal mania.

A case illustrative of the delirium and other morbid symptoms pointed out above, resulting from deficient vital energy of the brain, conse-

quent upon excessive loss of blood, has just now come under my notice while preparing this paper. Mr. Shepherd, by trade a miller, aged about fifty, of good constitution and temperate habits, after recovery from a mild attack of dysentery, and while in the exercise of his customary duties, had his leg caught in some machinery in a remote part of the large flouring-mill which he superintended, and remained for half an hour before he was discovered and relieved from his perilous situation — the machinery all this time in motion, and his leg entangled. The limb was shockingly mangled to a point several inches above the knee, and much blood was lost before the arrival of any assistance. We gave him stimulants and proceeded to amputate the limb at the thigh. This was done with but trifling additional loss of blood, and, though weak, he appeared to rally favorably. The stump was left exposed for some time, in order to check any oozing of blood, and to secure any small vessels which might be disposed to bleed. After the stump had been dressed for several hours, and reaction had been established, a small vessel, which, notwithstanding our care, had escaped observation, commenced to bleed. We were called immediately, the stump was opened, and the vessel secured. This last loss of blood, though not great, comparatively, rendered him extremely prostrate; and many of the more alarming symptoms, pointed out above as resulting from excessive vascular depletion, were present. The pulse ranged from 150 to 160 strokes in the minute, and was small and thready: respiration sighing and interrupted: there was delirium — the patient seemed to imagine himself still in the machinery, and cried out for help to get loose. In addition to the delirium and other symptoms, the most distressing result of the cerebral anæmia, in this case, was the violent retching and vomiting of everything taken into the stomach, upon the slightest motion — even that of raising his head a few inches from the horizontal position, to give him a drink. Brandy and strong beef-tea were given every few minutes, and though much of it was rejected, enough was retained to cause the system, even in the extremely low state to which it was reduced, to respond to its influence, and under its use the more urgent symptoms — the delirium and retching — were relieved, and he is, at this time, three weeks from the operation, in a fair way to recover. — *Amer. Jour. Insan.*

PREVALENCE OF AN EPIDEMIC.

From one of the daily papers of Rochester, N. Y., the *Democrat*, the public have a very clear and circumstantial account of a malady now prevalent in a section of western New York, which has been regarded with fear and trembling. The best comment that has come under observation, respecting the real character of the disease, is from the pen of Dr. L. C. Dolly, of that city, which is deserving of permanent record for future reference.

He proceeds thus:

"The disease manifests itself with chills, nausea and vomiting, severe pain in the head, &c., soon followed with fever, delirium, impairing of hearing and sight, and finally with coma more or less complete, and in some instances convulsions. What may be known as petecchial spots upon the surface and ecchymosis, are characteristic symptoms, and numbers have died within twenty-four and thirty-six hours after the invasion of the disease. Those who have seen the disease as it prevails in the eastern counties, represent it as manifesting a similar train of symptoms. It has generally been regarded as an epidemic form of acute cerebral inflammation, and treated accordingly, mostly by venesection, cathaatics revulsives, &c. It may be well to inquire whether this view of the malady is a correct one, and whether a similar or an identical epidemic has not prevailed in some portions of the country at former periods?

In the year 1810, and for several subsequent seasons, an epidemic prevailed in various parts of New England, the eastern counties of New York, and the borders of Canada, known by various names, as "Spotted Fever," "*Phrenitis Typhoides*," "Malignant Nervous Fever," "*Typhus Syncopalis*," "Sinking Typhus," &c. One acquainted with the disease as now prevailing, cannot fail to observe the close resemblance between it and this early epidemic, as minutely described in the old writings of Drs. Miner, Tully, Thatcher, Page and others, and in a report before the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1810.

Thatcher says, "in the winter of 1813 it visited the army of the United States at Greenbush, and at various other places, where its destroying power has scarcely been exceeded by military slaughter." Drs, Miner and Tully remarked that, "spotted fever, like other epidemics, has almost infinite gradations in its rapidity, severity and mortality. In some

seasons and in individual cases, it is comparatively mild; in others, it is much more rapid and fatal than the cholera of India, or the plague of the Levant. No foreign author, it is confidently believed, has ever described this disease." It is shown to differ very essentially from the Typhus Petecchialis, and other forms of Typhoid disease of European nosologists. It usually occurred during winter and spring, and in some instances was protracted until May and June. Dr. Miner represents the disease as appearing to have its seat and throne in the brain—to belong nosologically to the passive phlegmasia. It is attended with no spontaneous reaction. This is manifest by the greatest arterial debility, typhoid delirium and convulsions, paroxysms of *subsidentie*,—in a word, by every symptom which is known to indicate an extreme deficiency or exhaustion of the powers of life. Petecchiæ, ecchymosis, general suffusion of the capillaries, coma, delirium, interrupted respiration, numbness, and insusceptibility to the action of ordinary rubefacients, and sinking after evacuants, are much more common than in any febrile disease. Coma and delirium may sometimes be so severe and protracted as to overwhelm or disguise the other symptoms.

It was fully demonstrated that the depletory and other measures applicable to ordinary cases of brain fever, or cerebral inflammation, were highly pernicious, and that the first principal indication of cure was to support the sinking powers of life. Almost uniform success attended the judicious but vigorous use of diaphoretic stimulants and tonics internally, with rubefacients, artificial warmth, &c., externally. The particular remedies found most valuable it is unnecessary to mention in this connection. Many of them are such as are contra-indicated in inflammation of the brain and its membranes. "Everything which might tend to waste the vital powers should be avoided. Bleeding need not be mentioned, but to warn against its fatal tendency. That a number of cases sunk from bleeding, when the disease first appeared, and was mistaken for inflammation of the brain, is universally notorious. In every severe case free bleeding and free purging is almost certain death." (Dr. Miner.) Some were known to die while under the operation of a dose of calomel and jalap, in places where the disease made its first appearance. The lancet was found to be equally unsuccessful. (Dr. Page.) It seems not to have been contagious. The disease, at its breaking out, proved fatal in a very large proportion of cases, but after its nature and treatment become better understood it does not appear to have destroyed more than one in fifty, and according to some statements not above one in a hundred.

This epidemic is well remembered by many now living in this region. It is believed that "brain fever" of the present time, when fully understood, will be found to be essentially the same as this old epidemic, and if, unfortunately, it should continue, it will be found equally manageable by treatment based upon correct pathological views. The necessity of physicians *knowing* what they do, and appreciating correctly and early such maladies, is apparent from the concluding words of Dr. Miner:—"Typhus syncophalis, or spotted fever, when neglected or injudicious-managed, is among the most deadly maladies which a mysterious Providence permits to scourge the human race. When taken in season, and treated with decision, and judgment, few diseases yield with so much certainty to a proper course of medication."

HISTORY OF VACCINATION IN AMERICA.

A short memoir of Dr. Yates assigns to him the honor of having first introduced vaccination into this country. In another place we have referred to the supposed claim of the late Dr. Waterhouse. However, the point may be settled by those who are ripe for literary controversy. There should be more known of Dr. Yates. What memorial has he left of himself? Can a correspondent answer the question?

Dr. William Yates, who first introduced Vaccination into the United States, died at Morris, Otsego County, in this State, on the 7th inst., at the extreme age of 90. He was a native of England, studied under Sir James Earle at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, attended Abernethy's first course of lectures, left London at the age of 23, possessed a fortune, and went home. Of a remarkably benevolent disposition, his attention was early directed to the treatment of the insane. In his house at Burton on-Trent, he received and treated a considerable number of pauper lunatics, but an unfortunate accident overthrew his plans for their relief. One of his patients, in a paroxysm of frenzy, took the life of another

patient, under shocking circumstances, and then committed suicide. He was so horrified at the act that he determined to close the Asylum, and, after providing for the proper treatment, among their friends or otherwise, of the remainder, he sailed to Philadelphia, where he arrived in June, 1799.

Previous to this incident, (says a correspondent of the *Evening Post*,) he had become greatly interested in the subject of *vaccination*, which was then just becoming known to the medical profession in England. And it was the desire to extend its blessings, along with the shock, to a sensitive mind, of the accident mentioned, that determined his visit to America. Before sailing he made the personal acquaintance of Dr. Jenner, obtained from his hand a large supply of the *virus*, and from his mouth all additional particulars.

Immediately on his arrival in Philadelphia he engaged himself with all the zeal of an ardent and philanthropic mind, to disseminate the knowledge of the then new discovery. And it is certain that he was the first to introduce into America this great boon to humanity, although the credit of its first introduction has been generally accorded to another. He knew this, but had a morbid dislike to publicity, and never publicly contradicted it, being satisfied to extend its usefulness to his utmost. While preaching incessantly its preventive powers, he inoculated thousands with the vaccine virus. The doctrine and practice were received by the American public with greater avidity even than with the English.

The following year his affairs demanded his return to England, but in a few months he sailed again for Philadelphia. He made the acquaintance of Judge Cooper, father of Fennimore Cooper, the novelist, of General Morris, Judge Franchot and others, and their intimate friendship he enjoyed till they dropped one after another into the arms of death. With Judge Cooper he ascended the Susquehanna to Otsego County, and being charmed with the passing beauty of the scenery, and also captivated by the daughter of a leading settler in the Valley of the Butternuts, he married the young lady, and resolved to pitch his tent there. He returned with his bride to England, when he disposed of Sapperton, which, as the eldest son he had inherited, to his brother.

After spending a year in England, and making a tour of the continent, he sailed for the last time for America, and purchased a large estate in Butternuts, where he resided to the day of his death.

TREATMENT OF TAPEWORM BY THE OIL OF MALE FERN.

By Dr. William Jenner,
Physician to University College Hospital.

In the treatment of tapeworm, we have to keep three objects in view; viz.:

1. The expulsion of the entozoon;
2. The prevention of the entrance of another scolex of tænia into the patient;
3. The improvement of the health of the patient, so that his intestines may no longer form a favorable nidus for the development of the scolex into a tænia.

The two last objects are to be attained by directing the patient to live well, but to avoid pork and imperfectly cooked meats of all kinds. Spices, onions, and garlic, should be used with the food. Spirits and wine are to be preferred to beer. Beer, especially if it contains but little hop, is thought by some most experienced German physicians, to be highly favorable to the development of tapeworm. Mild aperients, vegetable bitters, steel, and zinc, are the medicines in which most confidence is to be placed. Out-door exercise is essential.

For the expulsion of the worm, various agents have been employed with success. As the animal increases in length, by the formation of new joints, at the neck, close to the head, it is no matter how many yards are removed, provided the head remains; for, in that case, the worm quickly grows to its original length. No remedy, then, is successful, which does not expel the head. But, although this is true, and tapeworm is a common enough disease, many practitioners have never seen the head of a tapeworm.

The anthelmintics chiefly employed in cases of tapeworm, in this country, are turpentine, kousso, pomegranate, and male fern. The objection to turpentine is its horribly nauseous flavor, and its very unpleasant effects on the head, and occasionally on the kidneys. It is a remedy which should be used only as a last resource. Kousso is expensive and bulky. Pomegranate is bulky and nauseous, and, as ordinarily obtained in this country, not very certain in its action. Male fern has the advantages of being inexpensive, only moderately disagreeable in flavor, so that children take it readily, of small bulk, perfectly innocuous to the patient, and more certain than the other agents in its action on the parasite. It

is one of the oldest of the remedies for tapeworm, and one of the very best. The preparation I have used is the ethereal oil. An aperient was given in the morning, the patient was kept without food for sixteen or eighteen hours, and then one or two drachms of the oil of male fern were administered on a little cinnamon water.

I have noted twenty-four cases to which the oil of male fern was given. Sixteen of these cases were cured by a single dose. In three of these sixteen cases the head was found; three of the remaining thirteen were ascertained to be well two years after the administration of the oil, one a year after, one seven months, two six months, three four months, one three months; and before the other two ceased to be under observation, a second dose was given by way of precaution, as it was to all the patients when the head was not found, without any tænia coming away with the stool.

Three required two doses of the drug; in one of these three some yards of tænia were expelled by the first dose; for two months after this no joints were found in the stools, then a few appeared, and a second dose was given, and was followed by the expulsion of nine yards of tænia; the patient continued well two years after this. In the second case, three yards were expelled by the first dose, and, a month after, five feet by a second dose; at the expiration of four months and a half, the patient continued well; in the third case five and a half yards of tænia were expelled by the first dose, and seven yards by the second, given two months after the first.

These doses were required in two cases. The first dose of the oil, however, given to one of these cases, was not of good quality. In one of the two, three days elapsed between the first and second dose, and four hours between the second and third. In the other, two days elapsed between the first and second dose, and one between the second and third. In both cases the head was obtained.

In one case, viz., that of a child five years and six months old, between the 15th of July and the 4th of August inclusive, five doses of castor oil, and as many of oil of male fern, were administered, without a decided effect — a few joints of tænia only being expelled. On the 17th of August, twenty grains of the extract of male fern, obtained from Duncan and Flockhart, of Edinburgh, were given without effect. On August 23d, one pint of infusion of pumpkin seeds; on September 1st, decoction of pomegranate; and, on September 5th, infusion of kousso; all produced copious evacuations, but no tapeworm. The child now left the hospital. In November he was readmitted, and during my absence was treated with success by my friend, Dr. Ballard, with the oil of male fern. This time the child was kept for forty-eight hours with little if any food, before the oil was given. The child was free from tapeworm some months after he left the hospital.

One man took the oil two or three times without any good effect, but then large quantities of solid fæces were discharged from its action; and before it could be administered in a more effectual manner, the patient escaped observation.

Among those cured by a single dose, and well two years afterwards, was one man who had taken kousso three times, and oil of turpentine twice. Several of the others had taken turpentine and other remedies with permanent good effect. In three cases (children) the patients rejected the oil by vomiting; with one exception, all admitted that it was much less nauseous than castor oil. In no case did it cause griping or other unpleasant symptom. The shortest time after taking the oil, in which the worm was expelled, was half an hour; the longest twelve hours; the ordinary time four hours. A large quantity of tenacious yellow mucus was usually expelled, either with or before the worm, and often, also, when no worm was present, as when the oil was given to ascertain that no worm remained, the head not having been found.

In no case was the worm alive when expelled, and in no case was it expelled entire.

The mode of administerfng the oil of male fern, I would recommend, after the experience I have had of it, is as follows: —

For an adult, two pills may be taken at bed-time, containing three grains of calomel and eight of compound colocynth pill — the following morning a dose of castor oil. A little broth only should be given till the bowels have been thoroughly cleared out. As soon as that object is effected, one drachm and a half of male fern is to be given on an ounce of some aromatic water; and the dose of oil of male fern is to be repeated in six hours, if the first dose has not proved effectual before the expiration of that time.

For a child, calomel and jalap may be substituted for the colocynth and calomel. The dose of the oil of male fern must be as large for the child as for the adult, seeing that its

action is on the parasite, and not on the patient. I have never seen any unpleasant results follow its employment in the child. — *Asso. Med. Jour. p.* 718.

SELECTIONS FROM HIPPOCRATES.

After the setting of the Pleiades, he who had a pain in his ear lost his speech twenty days after, and became paralytic on the right side, without a fever, but not without sweating. The right eye and the right ear gave way a little, and drew something from the lower part. The eye was distorted to the left, with a great deal of pain; the neck became hard, and within three hours was equally painful.

After the setting of the Pleiades, the servant of the Attican, who had been ill with a quartan, had a stupid foolishness fixed upon him.

Another at the same time was taken with a true typhomania; which, upon the hips and legs becoming painful, went off; but what day I know not.

About the same time chillinesses; vomitings; and, after the crisis, aversions to food; bilious discharges; great, hard, painful spleens, and likewise hemorrhages were the complaints of some; and of others, at the same time, hemorrhages from the nose, of a pale greenish color, occasioned by the spleens.

In Cranon, the wife of Nicostratus, who was seized with a fever, complained at once upon the fourteenth day of a paralytic disorder (or imbecility) in her neck and other parts. She had had no stool to the tenth; breathed often and little; could not contain herself, but felt about with her fingers; was delirious, sweated, and had her neck, mouth, eye, and nose drawn to the right side. The sediment in her urine was white, like pulse, at one time; at another, white, stringy, and membranous; and at another, somewhat pale with a greenish cast, like the meal of lentils. Sometimes again the surface would be fat and greasy, and that in a heap, resembling sheep's wool; and not much dispersed, as a scattered cloud appears in urine. After this her urine would have no sediment at all, but something of this kind. Again, it would have some such sediment, at one time broad and scattered up and down; at another, turbid. Sometimes the cloud would resemble a blackish cloud of some consistence; at another time it would be soft and thin. Again, it would be thin, and of this kind; at another time, like horses' urine; and at another, dark and shady.

COMMUNICATIONS.

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CLERICAL HEALTH.*

NUMBER XIII. — BY WM. M. CORNELL, M. D.

Sleep a mystery—A means of preserving health—When, where, and how long should we sleep?—Curiosities of Sleep.

Sleep is a very wonderful phenomenon.—Why, we should have been so constituted, as, that it should be necessary for us to spend one third of our lives in an unconscious state, we are unable to say. But so it has been ordained, by our Creator. The Redeemer once said, "Our friend sleepeth;" "the disciples thought, he spoke of taking rest in sleep!" It is a consoling thought, that what is called the death of the righteous, is represented in scripture, as "falling asleep;" and we all know, what it is to rest in sleep.

When, *where*, and *how long* should we sleep? These are the inquiries, we will endeavor to answer.

When should we sleep?

Our Creator seems to have answered this question, by making day and night. When light, and noise, and bustle cease, and heat is mitigated,—when "tired nature" seems to rest; *then*, the mind and the organs of the body, the muscles and senses, should sink into forgetful quiescence; and remain so, till the "powerful king of day" and harbinger of action, folds up the mantle of darkness, and throws over creation, the brilliancy of his power. This would seem to be the dictate of nature. This dictate, the animal creation obeys, with the exception of a few beasts of prey, which the sons and daughters of etiquette and fashion, (mostly in cities,) by devoting the day to repose and the night to dissipation, have deemed worthy of their imitation. The night which brings repose to sober men and sober beasts, only rouses their powers to action, by gathering around them, those artificial stimulants, which steep them in the fumes of debauch, till morn, and toss them on the ocean of dreams, till noon. This is the best way to live a short life. It is like editing a daily journal, or, like a pastor, succumbing to all the whims, or attempting to satisfy all the demands of his

*Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1856, by WILLIAM M. CORNELL, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.

parishioners, or, like the atmospheric road, not only exhausting the air, but annihilating space; or, to use the graphic language of another, "burning the candle at both ends." He, then, who would live long, and possess a sound mind in a healthy body, must shun such a course. He must proscribe such a fashion, though it be "the god of this world;" especially, the *presiding deity* of all large cities. He must learn the lesson, which Dr. Franklin told the Parisians, the American Colonies had learned, "that it is cheaper burning day-light, than candle-light."

But, we have almost forgotten that, we are writing for clergymen, as it is doubtless, quite unnecessary to dwell upon this subject for *them:* and, if not necessary for them, it will be useless for others, for it is vain to write, or speak, or philosophize on such a matter to people in general.

Hundreds of iron pens, and thousands of tongues, with brazen lungs, could never write, or talk away the evil. So long as present pleasure is esteemed a certain good, and future suffering and discease, uncertain, the great mass of the population will pursue the former, and risk the consequence of the latter. It is doubtful whether this evil is checked in the least, among those in health, by all that has been written and published against it. "Morbios odimus et accersisimus."

As to the *time* of sleep, the old adage is as true and important, as it is quaint.

> "Early to bed and early to rise
> Makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise."

We knew an individual who possessed, at the age of eighty-three, an unusual vigor, and presented the characteristic marks of a sound mind in a healthy body. Though he once occupied a prominent professor's chair in one of our first theological seminaries, and, both from his position, and having reared up a large family, must have been exposed to much company, yet his testimony upon this very point is, "I have always been a good sleeper. Whatever company may be at my house, when nine o'clock comes, I uniformly take my light, bid them good night, and retire to rest."

We have no doubt of the wisdom of such a plan, and there is much reason for believing that sleep is much more refreshing in the early, than in the latter part of the night.

It must, however, be evident that any rule for sleeping in the night, and laboring in the daytime, if it is to be applied the world over, cannot be adopted; for, in hot climates, the natives cannot labor after the sun has been up a few hours, and they can then sleep, and work better after sunset. But even then, the ground has become so heated during the day, that it is uncomfortable to labor in the evening. The best time for them to labor is two or three hours before sunrise. Hence, the natives of India often take their sleep in the daytime.

So, also, if this rule were made to apply all over the earth, those in the coldest climates must sleep months together. But the rule answers very well for us, to sleep in the night, and labor in the day; and that is sufficient for our purpose.

The next question is, *where* should we sleep? We should never sleep on, or near the ground. The vapors arising from the surface of the earth in the night, are pernicious to health. In some countries where they ride all night in coaches, the drivers are accustomed to admonish the passengers not to go to sleep on the route, as the consequence will be "the *chills*," or fever and ague.

It is believed that, in those countries where fever and ague prevail, no one has been known to have the disease, who has uniformly slept in an elevated place; while those who are accustomed to sleep upon the ground, and in cellars and basements, are almost always subject to this disease. This rule should never be forgotten by those who reside in countries visited by intermittents.

We should never sleep in a small, ill-ventilated room. In the bed-room, we spend from seven to eight consecutive hours—we may safely say, on an average, one-third part of our lives. The demand of air for respiration to a single person is seven cubic feet a minute. At this rate, for eight hours, or one-third of the twenty-four, it would be three thousand three hundred and sixty feet. Suppose, now, our sleeping room does not contain more than six hundred cubic feet. It is no unnatural supposition, for we can find hundreds of such bed-rooms around us.

A person goes into one of these rooms with the door closed. How long will this air last him? Not two hours. Even if we suppose the sleeping room to contain one thousand cubic feet, it would last its occupant but about two hours and a half. What is he to breathe the other five or six hours while he usually remains in this room? Carbonic acid gas. In other words, a deadly poison. And, what is still worse, as our beds are usually located nearer the floor than the ceiling of the room, and as this gas, from its greater density than

air, falls to the bottom, the poor sleeper gets the larger share of the poison.

It will be asked, if this be so, if this gas is so poisonous that a person immersed in it will die as soon as if he puts his head under water, how it is that we live at all? To this very natural question, we reply, there are some mitigating circumstances. None of our sleeping rooms are perfectly air-tight.

And then, though people do not die often suddenly, yet multitudes of them are suffering with dizziness, head-ache, dyspepsia, and a host of kindred diseases induced by sleeping in such contracted and ill-ventilated rooms.—To augment the evil, frequently there are several persons, with one or two cats or dogs, and plants, together with an air-tight stove or a pan of coals, in the same room. When all these things are taken into the account, the wonder is, not that so many "are weak and sickly," but that they are not all of this class; not that there are so many aches and pains, and apoplexies, and palsies, dyspepsias and consumptions, and sudden deaths, but rather, that there are no more. We have all heard of the *Black Hole*, at Calcutta. It was a room eighteen feet square. In this room one hundred and forty-six persons were confined. It had but one window, and that a small one. The weather was hot and sultry. Dr. Dungilson, in his Elements of Hygeine, says, "In less than an hour, many of the prisoners were attacked with extreme difficulty of breathing; several were delirious; and the place was filled with incoherent ravings, in which the cry for water was predominant. This was handed to them by the sentinels, but without the effect of allaying their thirst. In less than four hours, many were soffocated, or died in violent delirium. In five hours, the survivors except those at the grate, were frantic and outrageous. At length most of them became insensible. Eleven hours after they were imprisoned, twenty-three only, of the one hundred and forty-six, came out alive, and those were in a highly putrid fever."

There are many *black holes* like this, used for sleeping rooms among us, the difference between *them* and the one at Calcutta, is, they are not crammed quite so full of human beings. In a word, then, we may say, a sleeping apartment should be lofty, large, and airy. It is a poor economy for health, to have large and spacious parlors, and small and ill-ventilated bed rooms. Fashion, however, is a reigning deity in this respect, and will no doubt continue to bear sway, notwithstanding the gratuitous advice of the doctor against her dominion.

Even when the sleeping room is large, it is advisable to have it communicate with an adjoining apartment, into which the air is freely admitted, as by this means, the air is prevented from becoming stagnant. If this cannot be done, a window may be left open, provided the weather is clear, and a current of air from it does not fall directly upon the bed.

On an average, from fifty to sixty degrees of temperature, is the most wholesome for a bedroom. Fire and lights, as a general rule, should never be allowed during the night in a sleeping room. Damp rooms and damp bed clothes must always be shunned. In fine, as to *places to* sleep in, it will do much better for *hearers* to sleep in *churches* than for *ministers*, though even of the former, when they sleep there, we might ask, "What, have yet not" beds to sleep in at home, "that he ye shame the house of God?"

The last particular is, *how long* should we sleep? We are aware, that we are now entering upon a disputed point, and that it behooves us to be careful what we say. The so called "immortal Alfred," divided his time into three portions, of eight hours each, allotting one to refreshment and the health of the body, by sleep, diet, and exercise; another to business, and the last third to study and devotion. But the life of Alfred was not a long one, and hence his example cannot be adduced as a rule for those who desire longevity.

No one who wishes to accomplish great things should deny himself the advantages of sleep, or exercise. Any student will accomplish more, year by year, if he allows himself seven or eight hours to sleep, and three or four for exercise, and three or four for meals and amusements, than if he labors at his books or with his pen, ten or twelve hours a day.

I knew a young man who labored in a boot manufactory seventeen hours a day, for a year. The result was a total prostration of health, and partial paralysis of one side of the body. He repaired to one of the medical Gamaliels of this city, and was depleted to a considerable degree. Getting no better, he went to another, who reversed the treatment, and put him upon Scotch ale and beefsteak, upon which he gained a little. He was finally cured in three weeks, by the treatment, at first recommended to him, namely, electricity and out-of-door occupation. Sir John Sinclair, speaking of himself, says, "The author has studied twelve hours a day, for three months; but that was in the prime of life, and for a particular purpose,

and he would not recommend any other person to try the same experiment, for any length of time."

It has been said of Dr. Priestly, that he wrote more, and on a greater variety of subjects, than any other English author; yet, at no period of his life, did he spend more than six or eight hours a day in business that required much mental exertion. A vast amount of labor may be accomplished, at this ratio, in a life of medium duration.

John Wesley said, he could command sleep even on horseback. He lived to be eighty-eight years of age. In some very curious remarks which he has left upon sleep, he admits that no one measnre will do for all, nor will the same amount of sleep suffice even for the same person at all times. A person debilitated by sickness, requires more of "tired nature's sweet restorer," than one in vigorous health. More sleep is also necessary when the strength and spirits are exhausted by hard labor or severe mental efforts.

Those who have allotted but three or four hours for sleep, and who have maintained that this amount would suffice for all, have made a "bed shorter than for an ordinary man to stretch himself upon, and a covering narrower than he can wrap himself in." Indeed, it partakes a little of the character of the Procrustian bedstead. Bishop Taylor and Richard Baxter, the former supposing that three, and the latter that four hours sleep were sufficient for any man, both fell into this error.

Whatever may have been the case with some few persons, of a peculiar constitution, it is evident that health and vigor can scarcely be expected to continue long without six hours sleep in the four-and-twenty. Wesley says, during his long life, he never knew any individual who retained vigorous health for a whole year, with a less quantity of sleep than this. Women, in general, require more sleep than men.

Mr. Wesley, in a sermon entitled "Duty and Advantage of Early Rising, founded on Eph. 1: 16—"I cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers." Though, doubtless, it was a subject of thanksgiving to the founder of Methodism that its ministers rose early, yet it must be confessed, this was a remarkable text upon which to found a sermon on early rising. But what is to our point here, is, the following plan which he gives for ascertaining the quantity of sleep required by each person. "I had been accustomed to awake every night at about twelve or one, and to lie awake some time. I concluded that this arose from lying in bed longer than nature required. To be satisfied on this head, I procured an alarm watch, which awakened me at seven, nearly an hour earlier than my previous hour of rising. Yet I lay awake as usual, at night. The next morning I rose at six. But notwithstanding this, I also lay awake the second night. The third morning I rose at five. But, nevertheless, lay awake the third night. The fourth morning I rose at four. This broke up the habit of laying awake at night, and I continued to rise at that hour for sixty years, and taking the year round, I never lay awake a quarter of an hour in a month."

Some clergymen make great account of "the Fathers" in the church; and perhaps a doctor may cite the authority of "the Fathers" in reference to hygeine. It is confessed there might be more profit in such authority, if the Fathers in Physics did not, like the Fathers in Theology, give us such wide discrepancy in their canons. Thus Codagan recommends not to lie in bed more than seven hours in summer and eight in winter. Willish, in his Lectures on Diet and Regimen, advises "to go to bed at eight o'clock in winter, and to rise at three or four o'clock in the morning." This plan has been adopted in some of the European universities.

Too much sleep is injurious. This is always very pernicious to a clergyman, as it debilitates the body, and renders the mind sluggish and dull,—two evils which the ministry of our day are but ill prepared to bear. By it, the senses are blunted, and both mind and body disqualified for action. It causes apoplexy, dropsy, lethargy, in a word, *the* many ills which accompany "stalled theology." It renders "the legate of the skies" too much like Cowper's "Alderman of Cripplegate, who first invented elbow chairs." It was for this reason, I suppose, that Galen called sleep *the father of death*, and says when carried to excess, nothing is more pernicious.

The *nervous* disorder, which is but another name for half "the ills that flesh is heir to," often arises from what Wesley called "*soaking*" too long in bed.

We would not intimate that these evils are all found among the clergy. This would be injustice to others, and too much credit to them. Valangan relates the case of a young man, who, in consequence of too much sleep, and too little exercise, died of an apoplectic fit at the age of twenty-three. Boerhaave mentions the case of a physician, who, by too much sleep, lost his intellect, and perished in a hos-

pital. We suppose this must have been one of the too many doctors, who either do not understand their profession, or do not practise in correspondence with their prescriptions for their patients. Sir Philip Sidney calls sleep "the poor man's wealth," and we may add, it is *every* man's health; and above all, the clergyman's life.

A medical writer of some eminence furnishes the following interesting particulars respecting sleep:

Some boys slept from fatigue on board of Nelson's ship, at the battle of the Nile. Among the impressive incidents of Sir John Moore's disastrous retreat to Corunna, in Spain, not the least striking is the recorded fact that many of his soldiers steadily pursued their march while fast asleep. Burdach, however, affirms that this is not uncommon among soldiers. Franklin slept nearly an hour swimming on his back. An acquaintance of Dr. D., travelling with a party in North Carolina, being greatly fatigued, was observed to be sound asleep in his saddle. His horse, being a better walker, went far in advance of the rest. On crossing a hill, they found him on the ground, snoring quietly. His horse had fallen, as was evident from his broken knees, and had thrown his rider on his head on a hard surface, without waking him.

Animals of the lower orders obey peculiar laws in regard to sleep. Fish are said to sleep soundly; and we are told by Aristotle that the tench may be taken in this state, if approached cautiously. Many birds and beasts of prey take their repose in the day-time. When kept in captivity, this habit undergoes a change, which makes us doubt whether it was not the result of necessity, which demanded that they should take advantage of the darkness, silence, and the unguarded state of their victims. In the menagerie at Paris, even the hyena sleeps at night, and is awake by day. They all, however, seek, as favoring the purpose, a certain degree of seclusion and shade, with the exception of the lion, who, Burdach informs us, sleeps at noonday, in the open plain,—and the eagle and condor will poise themselves on the most elevated pinnacle of rock, in the clear blue atmosphere and dazzling sunlight. Birds, however, are furnished with a winking membrane generally to shelter the eye from light. Fish prefer to retire to sleep under the shadow of a rock, or a woody bank. Of domestic animals, the horse seems to require least sleep, and that he usually takes in the erect posture.

Birds that roost in a sitting posture are furnished with a well-adapted mechanism, which keeps them firmly supported without voluntary or conscious action. The tendon of the claws is so arranged as to be tightened by their weight when the thighs are bent, thus contracting closely, and grasping the bow or perch. In certain other animals which sleep erect, the articulations of the foot and knee are described by Dumeril as resembling the spring of a pocket-knife, which opens the instrument, and serves to keep the blade in a line with the handle.

FLOATING FACTS.

Excess of Female Children. — It is a very curious circumstance, that a large majority of the Mormon children born in Utah are females, — and most of them have white hair. Can this physiological problem be solved — why there should be this unequal distribution of the sexes, which is so uniform throughout all other countries, and among all people, whether savage or civilized?

Progress of Homœopathy. — A Boston paper asserts that eleven years ago there were but six homœopathic physicians in the counties of Middlesex and Essex, in this State. There are now about forty, in full practice. This may be owing to the fact, that the people have begun to find out that the less physic they take the better health they have.

Boston Homœopathic Dispensary. — The trustees have elected the following physicians: Drs. Samuel Gregg, David Thayer, William Wesselhoeft, L. Macfarland, H. L. Chase, C. F. Geist, L. M. Barker, George Russell, O. S. Sanders, J. H. Woodbury, J. A. Tarbell, and W. F. Jackson; and the following as the surgeons: Drs. M. Fuller, B. H. West, I. T. Talbot, and J. C. Neilson. The Trustees have selected rooms in the Tremont Temple, and they propose to open them on the first of April.

Animal Endurance. — The Manchester, N. H., *Mirror* tells of a turkey belonging to Ira W. Moore of that city, which fasted thirty-seven days, having dropped into a hole between the straw and side of the barn, from which the feathered one could not extricate itself.

Prevention of Yellow Fever. — A story is going the rounds, that Dr. William Humboldt has ascertained that persons who have been bitten by a little reptile, very common in Central America, never have the yellow fever. Taking a hint from the fact, the reptile is provoked to snap at a bit of linen, into which a lancet is dipped, and patients are then inoculated with the virus; and they, also, are not susceptible to the poison which produces yellow fever. Probably there is not a word of truth in the account.

An Egyptian Army Surgeon. — When Mahomed Ali sent off his celebrated expedition into Æthiopia, with a view to subjugating Dangola and Abyssinia, an Italian Protomedico, the principal surgeon, was provided with thirty-six thousand piastres, for the medicine chest of the army. Instead of laying in medicines and instruments, the unprincipled rascal spent the money on his own account. He was a notorious cheat, and used to have a sentiment something like this — "the Pasha beats everybody, but I beat him!"

Effects of Fear. — It is a common circumstance, in many parts of India, to oblige persons suspected of crimes to chew dry rice, in presence of the officers of the law. Curious as it may appear, such is the intense influence of fear on the salivary glands, that if they are actually guilty, there is no secretion of saliva in the mouth, and chewing is impossible. Such culprits generally confess without any farther efforts. On the contrary, a consciousness of innocence allows of a proper flow of fluid for softening the rice.

Bang. — Before the suttee, or burning of Hindoo widows with the decomposing bodies of their husbands, was interdicted by the British government in India, the method practised by the brahmins, was, excite the poor victim to an exaltation of religious enthusiasm, by obliging the woman to chew *bang*, which is composed of the outer bark of hemp stalks, and opium. The effects upon the brain and nervous system, of this mixture, simply by chewing, is certainly extraordinary, and worthy of medical investigation. We have seen Arabs under the no less marvellous influence of *hashhesh*, which is the juice of the hemp, boiled down and mixed with tobacco, which is then smoked. They have the most beatific visions, after drawing a short time at the pipe, and laugh themselves almost to death, without uttering a word.

Making Noses. — At Kat Kangra, a place visited by the traveller Vigne, at the base of the Himalaya, there are native surgeons, celebrated for putting on new noses. The maimed come great distances for repairs. When it is recollected that the rajahs cut off ears and noses without stint, a hope of having a restoration of the organ brings in patients from remote distances. To all intents and purposes, it is done precisely as in our hospitals, by taking a strip from the forehead. With very simple instruments, and a little cotton wool besmeared with pitch, to keep the parts together, the success is sufficient to extend the reputation of the rude operators.

Making Hair Grow. — A tree is found in Rilu, India, known as the Soap Rayti, the berries being used for washing cashmere shawls. Bathing the head with the saponaceous solution, seems to do wonders for the shrivelled, half-destroyed hair bulbs. It would be a profitable importation to provide the barbers with the fruit of the *Sapindrus Emarinatus*, the botanical name of the soap-producing tree, which might be done, at no great expense. No branch of business has been more lucrative than manufacturing lotions and unguents, and similar preparations for the growth and preservation of the hair.

Malignant Pustule. — George Mitchell, of Brooklyn, firm of Cambell & Mitchell, began to be troubled with a small eruption or pimple on the lower lip, which, on Sunday, had become so inflamed and painful as to confine him to the house. It gradually became more virulent, until a large part of the face was affected, and in a day or two the lip became so swollen as to prevent speech. On Wednesday evening he died. The physician called the disease carbuncle; others thought it was erysipelas. It seems to have resembled the "plague spot," which resulted in a number of sudden deaths a year or two ago.

Voracity of the Alligator. — Mr. Vigne mentions of having shot an alligator, one morning, on the confines of Nepaul, which had a human arm in its stomach. Their digestion being rapid, their appetite is rarely satisfied, and hence, in the hot regions of India, they become extremely voracious, and probably destroy, annually, an immense number of the natives who reside on the banks of the sluggish rivers and lagoons.

Meal from Straw. — A new article of food for domestic animals is coming into use in France. Straw is ground in a mill, and when mixed with a small amount of real meal, it works admirably.

Old Age of a Horse.—The owner killed a faithful old horse at Barre, Mass., because he was too weak to rise. His age was forty-three years, eight months and seventeen days. Had he been exempt from hardships, neglect and over-tasking,—which seems to be the fate of all horses, even when owned by humane masters, —there is no reason why fifty or sixty years might not have been attained.

Vegetable Chemistry.—Rain water contains ammonia and nitric acid, and it is from these two substances that the nitrogen of plants is obtained. A series of examinations of the water discharged from underdrains shows that it contains less ammonia and more nitric acid than rain water. Rain water filtering through the soil, then, parts with its ammonia, but dissolves out nitric acid from the soil.

New York Dispensaries.—The various dispensaries of this city treated 8,385 patients free of charge, in the month of February; 4,028 being males, and 4,357 females. Out of this number, sixty-three died. The principal causes of death were phthisis, pneumonia, scarlatina, and variola. The prevailing diseases chiefly affected the pulmonary and cutaneous systems; among the most important were pneumonia, bronchitis, scarlatina, and small-pox.

Responsibilities of Physicians.—A republication of the fatal mistake at Baltimore, sometime since, would have the effect of inspiring extreme caution in writing prescriptions. A physician ordered a preparation of cyanuret of potassium and lemon juice. Some of it was given to a child, which immediately expired. The physician, ignorant of the chemical nature of his own prescription, supposed the apothecary had made a mistake, and so accused him. The apothecary, equally ignorant, was sure he had put up the prescription as ordered, and to attest his confidence, swallowed some of the medicine, and *died in a few minutes.*

The rationale is this: Cyanuret of potassium is a salt composed of prussic acid and potash. The citric acid of the lemon juice combines with the potash, forming a citrate of potash and setting the prussic acid free.

Mental Labor.—That young gentlemen and ladies injure themselves with too much study, is ridiculed. Their bad health is oftener due to some vice, or in other words, violation of the laws of health. *Life Illustrated* sums up the whole matter very sensibly and philosophically, thus:—Pythagoras, Plato, Wesley, Adams, Von Humboldt, Edgeworth! They were, from childhood, hard students. They were always acting, always thinking. No sun ever went down in the evening, during their long and eventful lives, without their mental storehouse of wisdom being greater than when it arose in the morning. The world never heard of more assiduous students. But they never suffered from over-worked brains. Such a thought never entered their heads. And why? Simply because they lived plainly, their food was simple, their habits were temperate and regular.

Incubation of Hydrophobia.—Michael Martin, a hostler at Brooklyn, N. Y., was slightly bitten by a dog in December last, and nothing more was thought of it, but week before last symptoms of hydrophobia appeared and he soon died.

African Linguists.—Dr. Baikie states, in the account of his late exploring expedition into Central Africa, that the Haūsa tongue is the French of that far off country. It is very generally understood. It was, he continues, most serviceable to us. We have often been surprised when paying a private visit to some chief, to find that the individual who the day before could only understand the dialect of his own district, obliging us to address him by a double translation, could now not merely comprehend Haūsa, but also speak it fluently. The interior Africans are good and ready linguists — speaking three and four different tongues; and the speed with which they translate a sentence is really surprising.

Dreadful Effects of Disease.—While Dr. Vagel was penetrating into the heretofore unknown regions of Central Africa, he witnessed the shocking system of cruelty practised by contending chiefs in their marauding exploits. On one occasion he saw thirty-six prisoners put to death at almost the same moment. Of four thousand others, all of whom were women and children, the latter under twelve years of age, 3,500 of them died of dysentery and small-pox before reaching the home of the conquerors, at a place called Kuka.

Maternal Fears.—Dr. Baikie, the African traveller, relates that on visiting a king on the river Niger, where a white man had never been seen before, a young colored lady of the court, who was daily expecting to become a mother, begged that he and his companions would go away, for fear their presence would turn her child white!

An African Apothecary.—Among a variety of curious discoveries made by Dr. Baikie while visiting the various native towns on the river Tsādda, while pursuing his Niger adventures, he fell in with a druggist or rather apothecary's shop. It was a small room, wonderfully clean, and painted. The sides were striped with blue, black, red and white. Two pots of herbs were steeping, on a tripod composed of three branches springing from a common origin. There were also three divining rods—one cut to resemble the head of a crocodile, the second a tortoise, and the third a man. Around were suspended strings of courier and numerous charms. The proprietor happened to be out.

Victims by Poisoning.—"Mr. W. Wilson, of Birmingham," says a local journal, "finds, by the Registrar-General's statistics, that 536 persons on an average are annually poisoned—ten in every week, or one in every sixteen hours, irrespective of those who die by the same means (whose true cause of death is only known to those who possess the dreadful secret of murder), and are registered with those who die from 'cause unknown,' 'sudden death,' or by the 'visitation of God.' On examination of the books of the General Hospital, he found that sixty three cases of poisoning had occurred in eight years, and out of that number arsenic had only been used in three cases, the number of females being forty-two, the males twenty-one. The deaths out of that number were only five, making on the whole one death in every twelve cases."

PROFESSIONAL PLEASANTRIES.

Scientific.—"What is the cause of the potato rot?"

"It is attributed to the rot-ta-tery influence of the earth."

"How was this ascertained?"

"By consulting a great many common-taters."

Gibbon and the French Doctor.—A good story of Gibbon is told in the last volume of Moore's Memoirs. The *dramatis personæ* were Lady Elizabeth Foster, Gibbon, the historian, and an eminent French physician, the historian and doctor being rivals in courting the lady's favor. Impatient at Gibbon's occupying so much of her attention by his conversation, the doctor said crossly to him, "When my Lady Elizabeth Foster is made ill by your twaddle, I will cure her." On which Gibbon, drawing himself up grandly, and looking disdainfully at the physician, replied, "When my Lady Elizabeth Foster is dead from your recipes, I will immortalize her."

Cumberland, in one of his comedies, makes a husband say, "Good nature in a wife is like gold leaf on a pill, it does not alter the dose, but it makes it go down."

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Yellow fever was fearfully on the increase, among the shipping particularly, at the last advices, at Rio Janeiro.

Dr. Wilder, of Providence, R. I., lately took off a cancerous breast for a lady in Woonsocket, very successfully, with a good prospect of a recovery of the patient.

Dr. Henry Bates, the impeached Treasurer of California, is a native of Barre, in this State.

A Medical Board, to consist of Surgeons Finley, Satterlee and McDougall, will assemble in New York on or about the first of next month, for the examination of Assistant Surgeons for promotion, and of candidates for admission into the medical staff of the army.

Dr. William Yates, who recently died at Morris, Otsego County, N. Y., is claimed by his friends as the medical philanthropist who first introduced Kine Pock inoculation into the United States. Abundant medical history long since established the fact that the late Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, of Cambridge, Mass., received virus directly from Dr. Jenner, and was the first to use it and confirm its importance in this country.

How is it explained that there have been no mad dogs the past winter?

The St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences have decided to publish a weekly account of its proceedings and transactions.

An alarming epidemic that singularly affects the brain, has been sweeping off the people to an melancholy extent, in Madison and Onondagua Counties, Western N. Y. Some medical report will soon explain the character of the malady, it is presumed.

The New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal explains the inability of any medical association to stop the increase of quackery.

The Utah delegate in Congress, representing the Mormons, is Dr Bernhnisel, who says the saints there are shamefully misrepresented. The fact of every one of the faithful being permitted to have as many wives as a Mahometan molah, has led to these complained of slanders.

A new house, for the use of the Surgeons of the United States Hospital, is about to be erected at Chelsea; and the edifice is to be completed by November next, containing all the modern improvements of a first-class dwelling.

The Springfield Republican says that the small-pox that broke out at the Indian Orchard, over a year ago, has since spread to Palmer, Ware, Dana, Petersham, and Hardwick, and at Thorndike, a man died of the loathsome disease, last Tuesday.

There is a scramble going on wherever a Marine Hospital is located, for the office of surgeon. Chelsea, near Boston, is regarded with longing eyes by the outs, who hope to get in. If half the energy displayed to secure an appointment from which the incumbent is pretty sure to be ousted at the termination of four years, and sometimes much sooner, were exerted in the every day affairs of life, they would become independent—be their own masters, and enjoy in old age, the fruits of well directed industry.

Twenty thousand and twenty-three medical students have been graduated at the medical colleges and schools, since opened for their reception, in the U. S.

Dr. Bock, of Cologne, an antiquary, rather than write a book on medicine, which of course made more foes than friends, has concluded to furnish a volume descriptive and historical in regard to the coronation insignia and jewels of the German emperors.

Dr. Gray contiues to preside over the Zoological Society of London. At the last meeting in January, a paper was communicated by a physician of Boston, Mass.

Some of the young physicians who emigrated West with excited imaginations, now indulge in cool reflections. People have no leisure for sickness in new countries.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.

Excess of Knowledge. — Life insurance found but few patrons, when first presented to the public in this country. By dint of incessant activity through the press, the circulation of explanatory pamphlets, and a flood of circulars, in which all the advantages realized by the institution in Europe, were set forth, the new idea was finally taken into consideration. When people began to take out life policies, they rushed on with such earnestness, that to meet the demand, offices were numerously incorporated in several of the Northern and Western States, till the market was finally overstocked, and some of them fell first into disrepute, then died for want of sustenance. A limited number of them, by their prudence, official candor and integrity, are permanently established, and have a reliable pecuniary character; one of them, the Manhattan Life Insurance Company, of New York, appears to be doing an immense business.

All these things combined, made it essential that the offices should have a system to guide them in the issue of policies.

They must necessarily understand about the remaining duration of an individual's life, reckoning from any given period of his age. This was early arrived at, in England, in a series of laborious calculation. Those early tables were the basis for calculating annuities, &c., in the United States.

In the mean while, as we advance in years, we become wiser by experience. Life offices are bettered upon the same principle, and for some years they have been studying climates, meteorology, human temperaments, the action of the heart, the ratio of pulsations in a minute to the inflations and expirations of the lungs in a given time, until actuaries have become experts. They can tell the number of an applicant's days far more expeditiously than some persons could count the grains of sand on the sea-shore.

At the last meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a paper was read on Vital Statistics, which has made a dark subject infinitely darker, and yet the express object appears to have been, to enlighten life insurance directors. We should like to see one of them who pretends to comprehend this extraordinary mystification of a subject, which was originally a plain matter of fact, that did not require the mathematical

brain of Le Verier, to comprehend, before it was taken possession of by a live savan.

We might be thought insane, to copy any portion of the pamphlet, made up, as it is, of columns of numerals, and tables of logarithms.

Here is a specimen of one of the scholastic directions to those who wish to make the most out of an appplicant for a policy.

"Values by algebraic formula slightly exceed those of the following columns, calculated by a combination of parabolic exponential and algebraic formulæ."

Instead of furnishing life offices with a practical guide for determining certain vital points, the author of this profound treatise has soared into a region where ordinary minds cannot follow, or profit by his arithmetical accomplishments. The subject does not legitimately belong to the domain we cultivate particularly; but since vital statistics do, it is extremely unfortunate that no assistance is rendered in this learned treatise.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, APRIL 1, 1857.

MEDICAL DISCREPANCIES.—That physicians in the highest walks of the profession are as often influenced by jealousies, envy, and undignified expressions of feeling towards each other, as men in less conspicuous positions, if not admitted, is a charge brought against them, and strongly fortified too, by disgraceful examples of ill temper, and unwillingness to have competitors in the same arena, for fame, or daily bread.

But these are infirmities of humanity. Neither education nor appeals from the injured have much success with the conscience of an individual, who is determined to be a sun about which smaller bodies are requested to revolve. There are other things besides outbreaks of a thoroughly selfish nature which an ever vigilant public perceive, that operate unfavorably for these Solomons who would play the tyrant if they dared, on a larger scale. We allude to the treatment of diseases—about which, there are as many judicious methods, according to the representations of those who assume a dictatorial attitude, as there are crotchets in their brains.

The literature of cholera, since the first accounts of its recognition in Asia, up to the present month, is a fair illustration of the disagreement of practising physicians in regard to the treatment of diseases. In the attempts to convince those who are slow to believe in the correctness of their views, how many ridiculous sentiments have been recorded, bitter speeches uttered, and hatreds engendered. Every one in this particular sphere of action was completely successful Nothing could be easier than to subdue it. Thus in each country, a line of medication has been urged with energy, but where with more pertinacity than in those places in this country where the pestilence appeared? In the mean while, notwithstanding the floods of ink and the echo of great names, the cholera goes where it listeth, — sweeping off the people with a rapidity that is appalling. With all the fine-spun arguments respecting the origin; specific direction for keeping it at bay; and systematic prescriptions for curing those who are attacked, the cholera was never held in check a single hour; no remedy has been discovered, of universal application, — and that is not all, we have no more knowledge of that anomalous plague than when its advent was first heralded to astonish the nations.

Because physicians have expended such enormous volumes of scientific power, and been so positive, without accomplishing much in that particular direction, their discrepancies are made an apology for giving them even far less credit than they actually merit. The people do not believe that the members of a profession at swords' points with each other, are infallible; and consequently they are every where giving their patronage to any and every new school of practitioners who have no disputes to adjust. These discrepancies have been the bane of the medical forces of the United States. Professing to be governed by a code of honor that harmonizes all the elements of restless mortals, while the partition is so transparent between the lookers-on and the party in interest, that every body who chooses, may see what is transpiring behind the scenes, nothing short of a moral revolution, that shall insure kindness of manner towards those who dare think independently and practise as their own judgment may dictate, without the liability of being abused for it by self-constituted professional magnates, can restore harmony, and bring about a medical millennium. Were educated physicians courteous, obliging, and always consistent as men, in their intercourse with each other, quackery would die directly; but the commotions of cliques, monopolizing philanthropists, and scientific necromancers, have given vitality to every absurdity, under the guise of improved practice, which have their advocates on the American continent.

A NEW VOLUME. — With this number commences the second volume of this publication. Six months ago it was commenced without a subscriber; it has now an extensive circulation. The plan certainly meets the approval of the medical profession, or it would not have been so generously patronized.

MARRIAGES.

SILAS BROWN, M. D., of Boston, to Miss B. A. LANE.

GEO. W FAY, M. D., of Boston, to Miss J. L. MOWEY

THE

MEDICAL WORLD.

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HOMICIDE IN WHICH THE PLEA OF INSANITY WAS INTERPOSED.*

The Murder.—Joseph Brown entered his own house on the morning of the 16th of April, shortly after breakfast, where his wife, Ann Brown, was engaged at the table with her domestic duties. She, together with her daughter, a little girl, aged twelve years, were the only persons present. He went to his daughter, and taking from his pocket his wallet, containing twenty dollars, gave it to her. On turning towards his wife she kindly said to him, "Joseph, I am afraid of you," on which he immediately seized a long, sharp knife (used about the house to cut shavings) with one hand, and with the other threw her upon the floor; while in this position, lying upon her back, he cut her throat, severing the jugular vein, from which she shortly died.

History.—The prisoner was about forty years of age, of dark complexion, genteel appearance, and his countenance exhibited little of the fiendlike disposition manifested in the deed with which he was charged. He had the reputation of being a laborious man, was married, with two children living. He was a member of the Baptist church, and had been in the habit of taking a prominent part in its religious exercises, where his public speaking was loud and vehement. His religious exhortations, though apparently very earnest, were strangely inconsistent with other manifestations of his character. For twenty years he had been accustomed to more or less indulgence in stimulants; and whatever may have been his early disposition, it gradually grew to be irritable. Many persons, who had been acquainted with him a number of years, knew him to be intemperate and quarrelsome. His disposition was particularly exhibited toward his wife, who was a feeble woman; yet he provided for the ordinary family necessities, and manifested in them a general interest.

The mother of Ann Brown went to live with her nine years prior to the murder, and continued with her till the spring of 1855. During her residence she witnessed, not only the irritable disposition of the prisoner toward his wife, but, on several occasions, the infliction of physical abuse. Three years previous to the death of his wife he struck her with his fist; and again, on another occasion, while she was sitting at dinner, her husband kicked her from the chair, and she fell upon the floor. They had not spoken to each other in such a way as to provoke any assault. One year afterwards, and without provocation from words she was again the victim of an assault, in being kicked from her chair upon the floor. The prisoner, on this occasion, was about to leave his home, to be absent several days. In a few moments he returned with a pair of boots, and with one of these repeated his violence by inflicting three or four blows upon her head. He left the house and returned for the second time, and gave his little daughter some pieces of money. This occurred without any evidence of his having been influenced by stimulants, and without being excited by any unpleasant conversation.

On another occasion Mrs. Brown was obliged to flee from the house, in consequence of her fear that the many threats of violence would be put in execution. The frequency of these, together with the general irritable disposition of the prisoner, obliged Mrs. Brown's mother at length permanently to leave the house. The exhibition of this disposition, as well as the general abuse of his wife, was manifest to the friends and neighbors, who testified, on the trial, to its existence.

Hereditary Predisposition.—The grand-

* Trial of Capt. Joseph J. Brown, of Isleborough, in the county of Waldo, Maine, for the murder of his wife, Ann, on the 16th of April, 1856, in which the plea of insanity was the defence. Held at Belfast, Me., before the Supreme Judicial Court, Judge May presiding.

father of Joseph Brown was subject to periods of depression at the age of 62; and on one occasion nearly succeeded in committing suicide, by cutting his throat. At this time he was said to be unable to conduct his business; yet he was afterwards able to be about his residence, and to go at large with safety. This occurrence followed a period of sickness. The grandmother lived to be over seventy years of age, and during the latter part of her life was demented and under the care of legal guardians. The mother was passionate and irritable, and her peculiarities were the subject of remark by her neighbors. She died of tubercular disease, at the age of forty-seven years. An uncle was found drowned under such circumstances as to furnish the impression that he had committed suicide. A brother had an attack of fever, which was followed by mental aberration, continuing several months after.

Conduct of Brown antecedent to the murder. — With the exception of the prisoner's conduct toward his wife, detailed in the history given above, nothing very special in his history occurred to attract public attention to his condition, until about three weeks before the murder. He went to his brother's house, with whom he had some business transaction, and while there, became turbulent, and used improper language to his wife; applying to her opprobrious epithets. At length, on being ordered to leave the premises, he seized his brother by the neckcloth. Assistance being at hand, he released his hold, laughed heartily, and left the house. The door was then fastened, on which he returned, broke it open, threatening violence, and, after alarming the family with his strange actions, left the house, running rapidly a distance of several hundred feet. Here he ran around in the direction of a circle, and, going to the centre of it, he was seen to raise his hands in the air and walk away. His family were unable to account for this occurrence, and it does not appear that he was intoxicated at the time.

The only conversation or manifestation which had the appearance of delusion on the part of the prisoner, was on the twelfth of April, when he told his physician and his wife's friends of his belief in her infidelity. A charge similar to this, and without foundation, seems to have been occasionally made before her, and led, on one occasion, to an assault. On two occasions on which this declaration was made he was evidently intoxicated.

On Saturday, the 12th of April, Brown was observed drinking rum. On Monday he went to Belfast for the purpose of purchasing meal, sugar, and tea, and procuring the services of a physician to visit a sick child. The captain of the vessel who carried him from Isleborough to Belfast, the grocer of whom he made his purchases, and the physician upon whom he called, perceived him to be intoxicated. He indulged freely in the use of stimulants on his return to Isleborough, and also brought with him a quantity in a jug, which he drank.

Early on Tuesday on morning he returned home. His daughter, who was sleeping with her mother, got up, and Brown retired with his wife. During the morning he went with his wife to the house of his brother-in-law, and took a seat there, showing no disposition to engage in conversation. He got up and left the house several times, and when asked why he appeared so strangely, repeated the charge he had before made of his wife's infidelity, but without any exhibition of indignation or excitement. At dinner he took nothing but a cup of tea; and when about to return home, shortly after, asked his wife to accompany him, which she refused to do, unless accompanied by some person for protection. He then left alone. Mrs. Brown's sister accompanied her home, and remained with her during the night. Brown's manner was restless and uneasy, so much so that his friends inferred he was intoxicated, and had been without sleep.

Tuesday afternoon, Brown called at the house of Capt. Warren, who had charge of a vessel sailing between Isleborough and Belfast, and inquired whether he brought the provisions he had purchased from Belfast. He was then on his way to Belfast, but, before going, placed the following inscription, on paper, upon the door of his own house: "*Farewell, house, wife, and blessed little children. May God bless you.*" On arriving at Belfast he partook of a supper, and, according to his own statement, drank one quart of gin before he retired at night. About two o'clock, Wednesday morning, he awoke suddenly, and immediately set out for Isleborough.

On Wednesday, between six and seven in the morning, Brown returned to Isleborough. He called at the house of a neighbor to request him to draw his purchased articles home. At another house where he called, he requested some stimulus, complaining of feeling badly. Here he twice drank some liquor, and proceeded toward his house. The two persons upon whom he had called did not mention any

special appearance as characterizing his actions. He arrived home a short time after his sister-in-law had left, and committed the murder under the circumstances detailed above.

Conduct of Brown immediately after the murder.—After the commission of the murder, Brown left his house, and was seen by his neighbors running toward a bluff, seventy feet high, projecting over the sea. They were attracted by his manner, and the direction he was going, and pursued him. On his way, and while running, he took off his coat, and, when about to leap from the rock, his niece, a little girl, took hold of him, screamed loudly, and said if he jumped from the bluff she would throw a rock upon his head. On his way to the bluff he cried out to his sister, who was in pursuit also, to go to his house. Brown passed down by the side of the bluff to the shore, followed by three persons, and by this way to his house, from which he had then been absent about fifteen minutes. On entering, he picked up the knife, still bloody, which was secreted under the door-step, and, without noticing the persons present, or his children, went to the body of his wife and said, "Be you dead, Ann?" On leaving the house a second time, he went toward the shore, and, taking a small boat he found there, rowed out in great haste among the numerous islands that lie contiguous to Isleborough.

After he had proceeded three or four miles, he was pursued and intercepted. When he recognized his pursuers in the boat, he pulled toward them till he came within a few rods of them, then rose up in the boat, and called to them to turn and go back, as he himself was going back. He was observed to have about his neck a rope, to which was attached a heavy stone, which he raised from the bottom of the boat and placed upon the seat. He asked one of the men in the boat if his wife was dead, and receiving an evasive answer, replied, "Yes, she is, for I killed her; but she killed me first. I have lived long enough; I don't mean to live any longer, and I now commit my body to the waves. Take care of my children. If I come up, you may pick me up and save my life, if you have a mind to." He then jumped into the water with the stone attached to his neck. Coming to the surface, he swam directly to the boat, and was rescued in an exhausted condition, and with some difficulty in consequence of the great weight of the the stone. Every exertion he was able to make was in aid of those who were endeavoring to get him out of the water.

As the boat approached the shore, Brown called the attention of the party to the bluff, from which he had intended to cast himself; and while their attention was thus called away, he precipitated himself into the water. As he rose to the surface, a distance of twenty-five feet from the boat, he used his utmost exertion to regain it. There was no further attempt at self-destruction, and, without any resistance, he was placed in the jail to await his trial.

The Trial.—The prosecution called the daughter of the prisoner, a neighbor who identified the body of Mrs. Brown, and the coroner who held the inquest upon her remains, to establish their cause. The defence produced thirty-seven witnesses, who testified to various incidents in the prisoner's life, the hereditary predisposition to insanity, and to his conduct prior to and succeeding the murder, as going to establish his insanity. The testimony of the only expert produced upon the trial is here given, nearly complete.

Dr. Henry M. Harlow sworn.—"I am the superintendent of the Insane Hospital at Augusta. I have been engaged in an asylum for the insane twelve years. Insanity is inherited and transmitted. The existence of partial insanity is recognized, in contradistinction to general insanity. Delusion and hallucination is the belief in the existence of any thing which may have no foundation, and which inability to perceive correctly is the result of disease. Delusion pertains to conditions of the mind—hallucination to the senses. Both frequently exist together. Jealousy is a frequent symptom of insanity. I have seen cases of insanity caused by jealousy, and have also seen cases where jealousy was a delusion—a symptom of insanity. The indication of jealousy, when a delusion, is to accuse the object of it with infidelity. An insane man cannot be persuaded to sacrifice his delusion.

A person laboring under a delusion of jealousy might be led to the commission of homicide in consequence of it.

"Inherited insanity is not always developed with the same manifestations as in the ancestors. The use of ardent spirits, as well as the excessive use of tobacco, would aggravate the disease. A person with a homicidal propensity would not probably commit murder while in a state of intoxication, but would be more liable to do it immediately after it passed away, and while depressed. One of the most common symptoms of insanity is the inclination to wander about. Suicide is rarely committed by sane men. I put suicide down as one of

the most prominent circumstances in making up an opinion of a case of insanity. Homicidal insanity usually is incited without preparation or premeditation. Suicides usually occur secretly. The best writers recognize the existence of the *insane impulse*. If a man should commit a homicide in a sudden manner, without preparation, and in the presence of witnesses, the existence of insanity would be suspected. Persons of a homicidal tendency are often aware of the propensity, and call for care and protection.

"The existence of insanity would be strongly suspected in the case of a person who inherited the disease, who was accustomed to the use of stimulants, and who had been deprived of his customary rest at night. Capacity to attend to business is not incompatible with the existence of insanity. The accidental presence of a weapon would tend to incite the insane impulse. The fact that a person is able to recall events in the insane state is not incompatible with insanity.

"The attempt at suicide, the sight of blood, or a plunge in the water might so modify the action of the circulation of the brain as to be followed by an abatement of the disease; so that a person who had attempted suicide might make efforts to save himself."

Cross-examined. — "If an ancestor had labored under insanity, his descendants would inherit the predisposition to it, which would be liable to be developed under the influence of an exciting cause. Suicides, after preparing the rope, or instruments for its accomplishment, often relinquish the design. The large majority of suicides are accomplished under the influence of insanity, though the mere fact of suicide is not conclusive evidence of insanity. A person who had a correct knowledge of a homicide he had committed would not be considered insane. A delusion implies some derangement of the brain; yet a man may have a illusion and not be insane. The actions of a man, prior and subsequent to the act with which he is charged, are necessary to determine his mental state at the time. An insane man, if he talked at all of his trial, would do so freely."

By Attorney-General.—"What would you say as to the sanity or the insanity of a man who had been a habitual drinker of ardent spirits all his life, and on several occasions had abused his wife, kicking her, and threatening her life if she exposed him, and finally committed a murder without any apparent cause, and then fled?"

Answer.—"I should not hesitate to pronounce him insane, provided all the circumstances of the act went to corroborate the existence of disease.

"Continued intoxication would exite insanity, if the predisposition existed. An insane homicide is often the result of an uncontrollable impulse. An insane person may have an immediate return to sanity and may remain well. Insane persons often assign causes for the commission of their crimes. Remorse frequently follows so that they regret their occurrence. They are frequently aware of the presence of the homicidal impulse, where it exists, and ask to be cared for, conscious they may be unable to resist it."

By Attorney-General.—"If a man should say he was perfectly sane, and should say, 'I commit my body to the waves, and if I come up again, you may save me if you can,' would you consider him sane or insane?"

Answer.—"I should not consider him insane from these circumstances alone. I should not expect a man who had once attempted to commit suicide, and had changed his mind by reason of the shock, would attempt it again immediately."

To the Court.—"An insane man about to commit suicide by jumping from a precipice would be arrested by a very slight cause — a word might do it."

By Prisoner's Counsel.—"If the testimony in this case is true, as you have heard it, what would you say as to the mental state of the prisoner at the time of the commission of the murder?"

Answer.—"I should say he was insane—that he was laboring under a delusion. I should regard it a clear case of homicidal insanity."

To Attorney-General.—"The prisoner did not probably meditate the murder when he entered his house, and I do not think he knew what he was doing, or was sensible of the consequences of his act, but came to his senses immediately after, sufficiently so as to realize what he had done. Insane homicides usually select their victims from among their most intimate friends, and the extent of the danger would depend very much upon the nature of their delusions."

Judge May, in his charge to the jury said: "In all the remarks which I have thus far submitted to your consideration, I have made them upon the assumption that the prisoner was a sane man at the time of the perpetration of the deed. I have done so, not because I

intended to express my opinion, if I have any, in view of all the evidence in the case, but because, by law, every person who has arrived at the age of fourteen years, is presumed to have common discretion and understanding, until the contrary is made to appear.

"The defence is placed mostly, if not wholly, upon the ground that the prisoner, at the time when he committed the act, was so insane as not to be responsible for his acts. This is an important question, and you must decide it from the whole evidence in the case.

"The prisoner is presumed to have been sane and to have possessed a sufficient degree of reason to be responsible for his crimes, until the contrary be proved to your satisfaction. And the burden of proof is upon him to overcome this presumption, and to establish this defence. It must be satisfactorily proved, that, at the time of committing the act, he was laboring under such a defect of reason, from disease of the mind, as not to know the nature and quality of the act he was doing; or, if he did know it, he must have been so demented as not to know that what he was doing was wrong. He is not to be excused from responsibility, if he had capacity and reason sufficient to enable him to distinguish between right and wrong as to the particular act he was then doing;—a knowledge and consciousness that the act he was then doing was wrong and criminal, and would subject him to punishment. To be responsible, he must have had, at the time of the act, sufficient power of memory to recollect the relation in which he stood to others, and in which others stood to him; and to know that the act he was then doing was contrary to the plain dictates of justice and right, injurious to others, and a violation of the dictates of duty. On the contrary, although he might have been laboring under partial insanity, if he, notwithstanding, understood the nature and character of the act, and its consequences, and had a knowledge that it was wrong and criminal, and a mental power sufficient to apply that knowledge to his own case, and to know that if he did the act he would do wrong and receive punishment, such partial insanity is not sufficient to exempt him from responsibility for his criminal act. If, then, it is proved to your satisfaction, that the mind of the prisoner was in a diseased and unsound state at the time when the act was committed, the question is whether the disease existed to so high a degree that for the time being it overwhelmed his reason, conscience, and judgment; and whether the prisoner, in committing the homicide, acted from an irresistible and uncontrollable impulse — called, by Dr. Harlow, an insane impulse. If he did so act, then the act was not that of a voluntary agent, but the involuntary act of the body without the concurrence of a mind directing it, and he is not responsible for it. He must have had intelligence and capacity enough to have had a criminal intent and purpose; and if his reason and mental powers were either so deficient that he had no will, no conscience or controlling mental power; or, *if, throught he overwhelming violence of mental disease, his intellectual power was for the time being obliterated*, then he was not responsible for his acts, and is not punishable for criminal acts done under such circumstances.

"The insanity relied on in this case I understand to be a partial insanity, consisting of a suicidal or homicidal tendency, accompanied by a delusion or hallucination, springing from an insane jealousy. Whether this be so or not, is a question which you are to determine from the whole evidence in the case; and, if it existed, whether it so far overwhelmed his reason and conscience that, at the time he did the act, he had not a guilty knowledge of what he was doing. These may be difficult questions, and the difficulty arises from the little knowledge we have of the operations and diseases of the mind. We can know nothing of the mind except from the development of its thoughts and its acts. It is by these that we measure the intellectual strength and capacity of men, and are enabled thereby to decide whether a man is great or small. So it is only by the manifestations of the mind that we can tell whether, in fact, *the mind is diseased or not.*

"There is much testimony in this case in relation to the habits of the prisoner in regard to temperance. The tendency of intoxicating drinks to influence the mind and destroy its regular functions, if there be any hereditary predisposition to insanity, is well known. * * * If a crime is committed by a person in a fit of intoxication, and while it lasts, the temporary insanity, which usually accompanies such intoxication, is no excuse for it. If, then, you are satisfied that the prisoner was in a state of actual intoxication at the time of the commission of the act,—and that intoxication, being volutary on his part, had so bereft him of his reason that he did not know what he was doing, or the criminality of the act,—then such insanity is no excuse for his crime. This is an exception to the general rule touching insanity; but before such insanity can be

regarded as coming within the exception, it must first be shown that the act was the immediate result of the fit of intoxication, and while it lasted, and not the result of insanity remotely occasioned by previous habits of gross indulgence in spirituous liquors. The law looks to the immediate, and not to the remote cause; and, therefore, if the prisoner, from any cause, was insane when the act was committed, and that insanity was not occasioned by a fit of intoxication then upon him, he should be acquitted—even though it were occasioned by a recent fit of intoxication, or by habits of intemperance which he had voluntarily brought upon himself.

"If you should acquit the prisoner upon the ground of insanity, the law requires you to certify that fact when you return your verdict, and provides that the court shall have power to commit the accused to prison, or the insane hospital until restored to his right reason, or be otherwise discharged by due course of law."

The jury returned, after an absence of thirty minutes, with a verdict of *guilty of murder, in the first degree.*

During the closing ceremony of the trial, the prisoner stood unmoved by any thing around him. When he stood up to receive the sentence of the law, on being asked what he had to say why sentence of death should not be pronounced upon him, he replied, "I have been found guilty of the murder of my wife. If I have killed her, I do n't know it. I am glad I killed no other."

We could not but feel, at the time, that the verdict was unjust and inhuman. We have had no cause to change our opinion of the case since the trial. We needed no more evidence to convince us of the insanity of the prisoner than was presented there. The prisoner was sentenced to be hung, and, in accordance with a wise provision in the laws of Maine, directing all persons sentenced to capital punishment to be confined in prison until the Governor shall appoint the time of execution, was sent to the State Prison at Thomaston. While confined there, on the 27th of August, he committed suicide by cutting his throat with a piece of looking-glass.—*Am. Jour. Insan.*

Vital Phænomenon. — A negro woman, residing in Boston, gave birth, recently, to two living infants, one of which is black and the other white.

TREATMENT OF DIABETES.

BY DR. JOSEPH BELL,

Physician to the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow.

[In glancing over the history of diabetes, we find that only four important discoveries have been made regarding its pathology. The first was that of Willis, who about 1674, established the existence of sugar in the urine. The second was that of Chevreul, who, in 1815, discovered the character of that sugar. The third, that of M'Gregor, who proved the existence of sugar in the stomach and blood irrespective of the character of the food, whether animal or vegetable. The fourth is that of Bernard, who discovered the organ by which this sugar is formed. The most important points which have recently been established by Bernard, are,]

1. The liver secretes sugar from the blood, and this takes place independent of the character of the food, whether it consists of animal or vegetable substances.

2. The formation of sugar is not produced by a mere catalytic action, but by the separation of a portion of the blood, through the vital agency of the cells of the liver; and this separated portion undergoes further changes, which end in the formation of sugar. Therefore, the substance which immediately precedes the production of sugar does not exist in the blood, but is secreted from it by the liver.

3. The liver forms bile from the blood.

4. The liver converts the results of the digestion of saccharine and farinaceous substances, not into sugar, but into an opaque fluid of a fatty character.

5. A large portion of the sugar becomes transformed, or converted into other compounds in the lungs, not, however, by the action of oxygen alone, as Dr. Pavy alleges. Bernard found that, on exposing saccharine solutions to the action of oxygen, the sugar remained unchanged as long as when it was exposed to the action of atmospheric air or carbonic acid.—But when such solutions were brought under the influence either of nitrogen or hydrogen, the sugar rapidly disapeared.

6. Derangement of the pulmonary functions affects the quantity of sugar. Whatever increases the activity of respiration, augments the amount of sugar, and *vice versa.*

7. Irritation of the brain at the bottom of the fourth ventricle produces an artificial diabetes.

8. Such production is only of a temporary character, unless congestion of the liver and digestive organs be induced.

9. A section of the spinal cord beneath the cervical enlargement interrupts the secretion of sugar by the liver.

10. A section of the spinal cord above this enlargement deranges, but does not suspend, the saccharine functions of the liver.

Though these important facts completely overthrow the erroneous notions which previously prevailed, and are calculated to throw much valuable light on the pathology of diabetes, yet we have to lament the immense darkness and ignorance which still exist, and which are likely to remain unmoved during a long series of years.

How is it possible to tell whether the organ primarily affected be the liver, lungs, or brain? Even if we were able to trace the origin of the disease to the liver, how are we to determine whether sugar results from super-secretion, or from a non conversion of the results of the saccharine and farinaceous aliments into the opaque fatty fluid? If we could resolve these difficulties, we would still have to investigate the nature of the lesion, by which the extra-secretion or non-conversion was produced.—Difficulties equally formidable attend our researches regarding the important share which the lungs and brain have in the production of the disease.

Until these obscurities be removed, we dare not presume to say that we can treat diabetes on scientific principles.

[We shall now make a few general remarks on the different remedies employed.]

I. *Opium.*—This is a remedy of the highest value. The records of medicine show us that we possess no drug that has such powerful control over the disease. We must look elsewhere for an explanation of its power over diabetes. The solution, I think, we are likely to find in the discoveries of Bernard. 1st. We know that opium possesses an immense power over the function of the liver, reducing its activity. 2d. The influence of opium over the cerebro-spinal system cannot be denied. 3d. In full doses it reduces the respiratory actions. Bernard has shown that excitation of the functions of the liver, of the lungs, or of the brain, is associated with the appearance of sugar in the urine. Opium, therefore, by its power of reducing the functional activity of these organs, claims consideration as a scientific remedy. I have only to add, that I have found it better to give one full dose at bed-time, than smaller ones at short intervals. By this plan, we cause less derangement of the digestive functions. We may also act beneficially in another way. Bernard has shown, that by severely irritating the brain substance at the bottom of the fourth ventricle, so as to induce congestion, no sugar is produced in the urine—a slight degree of irritation causing its appearance. Now, small doses of opium, by producing a stimulating effect, might even increase, or, at least would not diminish the secretion of sugar; whilst, on the other land, a full dose, by its congestive effects on the brain, would powerfully influence the production of sugar. I have never ordered the immense quantities prescribed by many practitioners. Dr. M'Gregor states, that some of the patients who were the subjects of his experiments, took as much as sixty grains during twenty-four hours. Such heavy doses must interfere very seriously with digestion and nutrition, and consequently tend powerfully to debilitate the patient, especially when conjoined with restricted diet. Indeed, as I have already observed, this plan becomes a process of slow starvation, essentially assisting to hasten a fatal determination. The cases which I have detailed show, at least, that by moderate doses twice or thrice daily, or even an ordinary dose at bed-time, we can reduce the urine to a moderate quantity, and restore the strength of the patient.

II. *Ammonia and Alkaline Remedies* were in considerable reputation previous to the days of Willis, by whom they are favorably recommended. Then, and long subsequently, they were used empirically; that is, solely in consequence of the advantage which generally resulted from their employment. Of late years they have been used on other considerations; namely, the supposed acid condition of the blood, and consequent non-conversion and accumulation of sugar in the system; the idea entertained being, that ammonia and alkaline salts, by destroying the acid state of the blood, permitted the oxidation or transformation of the sugar to take place. Whilst we know that this explanation of the *modus operandi* is erroneous, yet we must admit that benefit resulted from the use of the remedies. The cases which I have narrated verify this opinion. I think that we can explain this efficacy on sufficiently plausible grounds. 1st, The action of ammonia on the liver, especially the muriate, is acknowledged by numerous writers of all countries and ages. 2d, Bernard has demonstrated, that the action of hydrogen and nitrogen on saccharine solutions speedily effects the

transformation of the sugar. Now ammonia (N H) may prove useful in diabetes, by destroying the superfluous sugar in the blood, and also in the cells of the liver. Animal food, from its nitrogen, may act in the same manner. In this way chemistry affords a rational explanation of the mode in which these and other remedies act. Such is the proper position of this science—not to lead the physician, but to explain to him the rationale of his experience and observation.

The preparations of soda, potass, and lime, have not been in my hands productive of any permanent benefit. A reduction in the quantity of urine follows their employment at first, but in a very short time this influence is lost, and the urine reaches to its former abnormal standard. I would explain Mialhe's success by the fact, that he always combined opiates with the alkalies.

III. *Cod-Liver Oil.*—I was led to give this remedy a trial from the following considerations:—

1. From numerous cases having been published in the British and foreign periodicals, showing very beneficial effects from its use.

2. From the very frequent association of phthisis and other forms of scrofula with diabetes.

3. From the extremely rapid disappearance of fat during an attack of the disease.

4. From the important influence which the oil exerts over nutrition.

5. From Bernard's experiments, which show that the liver exercises the functions of assisting in the formation of fat from the results of the digestion of saccharine and farinaceous substances. The loss of this fat-producing function may possibly hold a very intimate relation to diabetes. The saccharine matters may pass into the blood, instead of being transformed into fat. Hence the sugar in the urine—hence the loss of fat and the emaciation, the presence of oil-globules in the blood being necessary to assimilation and nutritions. Cod-liver oil, by the ease with which it is digested—somewriters indeed, assert that it passes immediately into the general circulation, without traversing the portal system—would very effectually supply the loss.

6. Fatty matters were recommended as articles of diet, by Rollo and others, as exceedingly appropriate to diabetic patients, and fouud to be remarkably beneficial.

From these circumstances I was induced to give the oil a trial, and from the trifling experience which I had of it in the cases quoted, I am led to entertain a very high opinion of its efficacy. I would, therefore, respectfully recommend it to the notice of the profession.

IV. *Blisters to the Hepatic Region and Nape of Neck.*—I confess these I employed in consequence of Bernard's experiments. I was the more readily induced to apply them over the liver, from the frequency with which this organ and the other abdominal exhibit viscera symptoms or congestion. I am convinced their application to the hepatic region was beneficial. I consider cupping or leeching the same part would be found advantageons, provided the strength of the patient would permit.

I cannot say that I could perceive any advantage from counter-irritation to nape of neck.

V. *Muriated Tincture of Iron—Hydrocyanic Acid.*—I have found the former useful when the patient's appetite began to fail from the continued use of opium. I conceive that it merely acts as a tonic, and possesses no specific influence. The latter I only employed in the last case, and from the short time the patient remained under observation, I am not enabled to say anything respecting its influence. I was led to employ it from the effect which it has in reducing the excitability of the medulla oblongata. I consider it worthy of a fair trial.

VI. *Diet and Regimen.*—A restricted diet was employed in some cases for a short time, in order to demonstrate to the students, that no real benefit followed the practice—that, even under the plan, the quantity of urine was only temporarily reduced, whilst the poor patients were rendered most uncomfortable from the restriction, and actually became much more enfeebled. The result of my experience is, therefore, opposed to a restricted diet. Doubtless we can reduce the amount of urine, but, simultaneous with this diminution, we reduce the flesh and strength of our patient. The cases which are contained in this paper fully confirm these statements. Again the experiments of Bernard entirely discountenance such restrictions. I do not understand how any physician can now continue to harass his patients by this plan of treatment, after it has been demonstrated that the sugar is formed *from* the blood, independent of the kind of food taken. It is formed when not a particle of saccharine or starchy matter is swallowed, and when the food consists entirely of animal substances. A much more plausible practice would be to feed the diabetic on farinaceous and saccharine matters, so as to prevent *the use of the blood* by the liver in its sugar-producing function. At all events, I think it

must appear self-evident that the withholding of a mixed diet from the patient is an act of cruelty. It renders them miserable, at the same time diminishes their strength, and, I am afraid, often hastens their death.

VII. *Bath.*—The warm bath was ordered occasionally to the patients, merely to maintain proper cleanliness. I do not understand how we can expect much benefit from profuse perspiration. We can only reduce the watery part of the urine to a slight extent; but the augmented specific gravity proves that we have not mitigated the disease; nay, probably, on the other hand, the strength has been somewhat reduced by the extra loss of fluid through the skin.

Practical Summary.—From the foregoing considerations, I conceive the following conclusions are justified:—

1. Opium has a most powerful effect in diminishing the quantity of urine, but does not cure the disease.

2. Ammonia seems to possess, at least in some cases, the power of reducing the amount of urine, the specific gravity, and quantity of sugar.

3. Opium and ammonia combined have a most beneficial effect.

4. Cod-liver oil alone is beneficial,—it improves the general condition of the patient, reduces the quantity of urine, and lessens its specific gravity.

5. Cod-liver oil, combined with opium, rapidly improves the strength of the patient, and reduces the urine.

6. The combined use of cod-liver oil, opium, and ammonia, effects the most prompt and permanent benefit.

7. Blisters to the hepatic region are useful.

8. The restriction of diet is rather baneful than beneficial. A mixed, generous diet is the best.

9. In the present state of our knowledge, we can only expect to improve the general condition of the patient, restrain the waste of tissues, maintain the vigor, and reduce the amount of urine. In this way we can mitigate the disease, and protract the life of the patient. We are bound to confess that we have no cure for diabetes. It is not the only disease which defies the efforts our art. In many other affections, we can only palliate suffering and prolong existence. These objects we can very satisfactorily accomplish in diabetes, by the judicious use of cod-liver oil, opium, and ammonia.

But it may be asked, how are we to explain the instances of reported cures that from time to time are published, ever and anon exciting our hope that an agent has been placed in our power by which we can secure an easy victory over the disease? My answer is two-fold.—1st, That such cases may have been of a mere temporary nature; a character under which diabetes is sometimes presented. 2dly, That in many of the published cures, an erroneous diagnosis may have been made in consequence of the use of Moore's or Trommer's tests, both of which are deceptive, a brown precipitate being produced by the presence of other organic matters as well as by sugar. I would admit no case as genuiue diabetes unless the yeast test had been employed. I do not speak from conjecture on this point; but from experience. Indeed, I fell into this very mistake some years ago, in consequence of this brown deposit. The fallacy was pointed out to me by the late Dr. M'Gregor. I have reason to suspect that in many of the cases that have been published regarding the presence of sugar in the urine of old persons, especially when labering under disease of the lungs, the deoxidation of the copper is effected by some other organic matter, and not by sugar. I have often, in such case, been able to produce a brown sediment, but I have always failed to effect fermentation.—*Glas. Quar. Jour.*

JOHANN NEPOMUK VON FUCHS.

By Franz von Kobell.*

* * * Johann Nepomuk von Fuchs was born at Mattenzell, near Brennburg, in Bavaria, on the 15th of May, 1774. He studied first for the clerical profession, but afterwards gave his attention to medicine, and graduated in this science at Heidelberg in 1801. A residence in Vienna led him to begin the study of chemistry under V. Jaquin, and his liking for this science and for mineralogy became so great that he abandoned medicine, and, supported by his government, went to Freiberg, where he heard the lectures of Lampadius and Werner, and made himself familiar with mining and metallurgy. His intercourse with his friend, the celebrated crystallographer, S.

* Read at the Public Session of the Academy of Sciences at Munich, on the 28th March, 1856. Translated for this Journal by Prof. S. W. Johnson, of the Yale Scientific School.

Weiss, who was his fellow student at Freiberg, led him to cultivate mineralogy with special zeal. From Freiberg he went to Berlin, and continued his studies under Karsten, Klaproth, and Valentine Rose, the latter of whom took a deep interest in his progress. He then made a short stay in Paris, where he acquired the esteem of Hauy, as is shown in the correspondence of the great French mineralogist, even where in one case he controverts the views of Fuchs.

In 1805, the subject of our memoir settled at Landshut, as *Privat-Docent* in the University there, and in 1807 he was appointed Professor in ordinary of chemistry and mineralogy. At that time he suffered so much from weakness of the chest, that no one thought he could survive many years, and although this difficulty never quite left him, he had such confidence in the strength of his constitution, that he manifested little anxiety about working in an atmosphere filled with acid vapors and noxious gases.

In 1823 he was called to Munich, and to the Academy of Sciences, as Conservator of the national mineral collections, and when, in 1826, the University was transferred from Landshut to Munich, he again entered the corps of professors, and instructed in mineralogy.

In 1833 he was appointed to the Higher Medical Commission, and Counsel of Instruction, and in 1835 he was named Chief Mining and Saline Counsellor, at the same time retaining his previous station. His new duties, however, were not of a kind compatible with his devotion to investigation, so that he shortly desired to return to his old pursuits, and in 1844, in full acknowledgment of his extraordinary ability, he was pensioned as Chief Mining Counsellor, and was thus enabled to pursue undisturbed his manifold studies, which occupied him until 1852, when, at the age of 78 he was pronounced Privy Counsellor, and laid aside his active employments. Fuchs left behind him at his death a widow and one son.

The first considerable research of Fuchs was concerning the Zeolites, which he analyzed partly in connection with Gehlen. This investigation was broken off by the death of the latter, who perished from accidental poisoning by arseniuretted hydrogen, in the year 1815, and Fuchs was so dejected at the loss of his friend, that he would never have resumed it but for the severe criticisms of Hauy upon some of the results which had been published.

In 1816, Fuchs published a preliminary notice of some mineral phosphates, and two years later followed his researches on Lasionite and Wavellite.

These investigations distinguished him as a profound analyst. He found that a mineral from Amberg, which he named Lasionite, was a compound of alumina, phosphoric acid, and water, and after he had overcome the difficulties in separating phosphoric acid and alumina, by an entirely original method, viz., the application of silicate of potash, — he undertook the analysis of wavellite, suspecting that in it phosphoric acid had been overlooked. In his paper he says: — "The thought indeed occurred to me that wavellite, which I had never yet seen (at the time of examining Lasionite), could not be very different, but I dared not entertain this idea against the testimony of three most celebrated chemists, Klaproth, Davy and Gregor, who had analyzed it, and found nothing in it but alumina and water. Since, however, I have become satisfied," &c. His anaylsis, in fact, proved the identity of these minerals.

Already Fuchs had remarked that silica forms compounds in the wet way, which perfectly correspond with some that occur in nature. The further study of these bodies continued to occupy him, and therewith are connected his later researches on the formation of porcelain clay, on soluble glass and hydraulic lime. In his paper on Lazulite, beside proving in this mineral the presence of phosphoric acid, which had been overlooked by Trommsdorf and Klaproth, Fuchs makes the first mention of the fact that various insoluble silicates, viz., lazulite, prehnite, zoisite and vesuvian, are decomposable by acids after strong ignition.

In 1821, Fuchs analyzed wagnerite, which had been previously confounded with topaz, and showed it to be a compound of phosphate of magnesia and fluorid of magnesium.

In the train of these researches appeared that on the formation of porcelain clay. At that time it was thought that potash feldspar was the material from which this clay was produced. Fuchs first showed that clay may originate from other minerals, and proved that the porcelain clay of Passau results from the decomposition of the so-called porcelain spar, which, it is remarkable, has hitherto been found in no other locality.

Fuchs always devoted great attention to blow-pipe experiments, and to him we owe the characteristic reaction of phosphates, viz., the greenish tingo they communicate to the flame after moistening with sulphuric acid, as well as the distinction between potash and soda, by means of the yellow or reddish-violet colors they

respectively impart to the flame of the blowpipe. The reddish color which spodumene gives the flame, had fallen under his observation before the discovery of lithia, and I remember his expression of chagrin that he had omitted to investigate the cause of this coloration, for he was convinced that otherwise the discovery of lithia would not have escaped him. On the 27th of March, 1824, Fuchs delivered the customary oration before the Munich Academy of Sciences, and chose for his subject, the reciprocal influence of Chemistry and Geology. He showed that a great gap would be formed in chemistry, should mineralogy be separated from it, and that the conclusions of the chemist cannot be drawn from chemical relations alone, but that he is greatly and indeed chiefly dependent upon the external or physical characters from which we derive our conception and knowledge of bodies. He illustrated the importance of crystallography, and reminded how the chemist is often obliged to combine a problematical body with other substances, in order to recognize it by means of the physical characters of the product. Thus, alumina is united to sulphuric acid and potash, and then decisively made out from the octahedral form of the resulting alum.

In 1825 appeared a paper on soluble glass, a substance which has become useful in several ways, and still presents various interesting points for investigation, especially the nature of the precipitates it produces in solutions of metallic oxyds. Fuchs had already at that time directed notice to these precipitates, and had mentioned as characteristic the blue color which is obtained with cobalt salts. The first industrial application of the soluble silicate of potash was for rendering edifices fire-proof, and was made in 1824, on the then newly erected Theatre in Munich, after the necessary preliminary trials had shown the process to be satisfactory. To what a degree the applications of soluble glass have recently been increased, is learned from a late account by Baron Liebig, wherein he mentions the extensive fabrication of it carried on by his friend Kuhlmann, at Lille, and describes how it is used in enormous quanties to prevent the decay of walls, dwellings, and churches, even when built of very inferior stone, besides being employed in printworks and tapestry-factories, to fix colors upon cotton and paper. Liebig expresses himself "astonished and ashamed at this; ashamed because in Germany soluble glass exists only in chemical treatises, and because he knew with what disappointments Fuchs was obliged during many years to contend, before he could see realized but one of its many useful applications." In immediate connection with the discovery of soluble glass, stands the art of *Stereochromy*, a style of fresco-painting invented by Fuchs, a complete account of which he wrote but a short time before his death, and left behind him, as an invaluable legacy to art. Kaulbach has the merit of first recognizing the advantages of this method, and putting it in use. His great frescoes on the New Museum at Berlin, are stereochromically painted, and very recently we have seen specimens of this kind executed by Echter, for the Strasburg Minster. They are perfectly successful, and it deserves to be noticed, are painted directly upon the sandstone which is used as building material. In carrying into practice the idea of fixing colors by means of soluble glass, numberless difficulties presented themselves. It was found, for example, that several new pigments must be invented. Fuchs finally succeeded in this, and among others he produced a white pigment of the finest quality, and especially faultless in its most important application, viz., for mixing with other colors. This color is now used in oil painting. Stereochromy has decided advantages over ordinary fresco and encaustic painting, for the artist enjoys full freedom in laying on his colors; he is not confined to any limited time; he can alter and improve at will, because the fixing of the color is done after the painting is finished, and is to a certain degree a technical operation, which may be left to ordinary workmen. Numerous experiments have demonstrated the unchangeableness and durability of these pictures, many specimens of which have been purposely exposed to the severest trials, without suffering injury. In 1851 Fuchs received a prize medal at the Great Exhibition, for this invention, and before his death, had the satisfaction to see stereochromy appreciated in his native land, and especially by his majesty, the reigning King, Maximilian. — *Amer. Jour. of Science and Arts.*

Aged. — Miss Mollie Jennings died recently in Pennsylvania county, Virginia, at the great age of 107, being a full-grown woman when the Revolution broke out. Mrs. Pilate's death, at the still more venerable age of 116, in Laurens county, Georgia, has been chronicled for some weeks past.

ON POST-NATAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE VULVA.

BY R. C. MOFFATT.

Case 1. — Josephine K. was born of parents in good average health in February. The other children were, a girl, eleven years, and twin girls four years old at the time of her birth. She was of medium size, fat and healthful.

When eighteen months old, it was first discovered that there were no labia, nymphæ, or clitoris; that nothing was to be seen between the lower portion of the mons veneris, (imperfectly developed, as it always is in children) and the anus, but the orificium urethræ, and the raphé ordinarily found in the perinæum. Notwithstanding her solicitude concerning the deformity, the mother did not communicate the circumstance to me for some time, when, on examination, I found the parts as just stated.

There was no occasion for immediate action; so I sought in books, and among my professional friends for information and counsel. Dr. Rosman had had a case exactly parallel, in a child five years old, in whom, while the parents were deliberating and making choice of a surgeon, a spontaneous evolution had occurred, and the development had taken place itself. He therefore advised waiting. The facts that the organs were not yet needed in the economy of the patient; and the precedent, that spontaneous development had occurred, led me to give to the parents the counsel I had received, and to allay their anxieties by the hopes I entertained myself.

In less than twelve months those hopes began to be realized. In May, when the child was two years and three months old, the mother announced to me that "the change, she believed, was taking place; for the skin there looked thin, as if it would crack." In a few days, when straining at stool, the little patient suddenly jumped up, cried out in pain, and pointed with her hand to the vulva. Examination showed a single drop of blood; and, on parting the thighs, a fissure was manifest in the place previously occupied by the anterior portion of the raphé. In a few days I made an examination. The mons was more marked than on the former inspection. Two crura extended towards the anus, being plainly the half-developed labia majora; by their prominence and directions, they left the vestibulum in recess, in which was to be seen the orificium urethræ. The vestibulum and inner surfaces of the labia were assuming the roseate tint. I do not remember noticing the clitoris. On separating the folds lower down, a partial view was obtained into the vagina, through a perfectly transparent membrane, triangular in shape, that stretched from side to side, and terminated in the commissure of the yet unparted folds. This commissure, and the lines where the transparent septum joined the labia, were deeply red, as if denuded of the skin for a small space. The nymphæ were not yet formed. The odor peculiar to the genitals was plainly perceptible, and the raphé was seen extending posteriorly from the commissure, as before. Parting the labia was evidently painful to the little one; and therefore a more leisurely examination was not held. Enough was seen, however, to assure us that that the wished-for change had begun; and it propressed so rapidly that before mid-summer the mother announced to me that her daughter was "all right."

The same thing, though less in degree, is often noticeable in boys, where ability to uncover the glans penis is not yet established till they are three or four years old. Not only is the prepuce insufficiently dilatable, but its inner surface is not yet separated from the glans, as may be plainly seen when the retraction is partial.—*No. Amer. Jour. Homœo.*

ST. LOUIS MEDICAL COLLEGE.

The Annual Commencement of this Institution was held in O'Fallon Hall, College Building, February 28th, 1857. The Degree of M. D. was conferred on forty-four young gentlemen, graduates of the last session, in presence of a large and intelligent audience.

List of Graduates.

George Allen, Charles W. Parsons, H. K. Hinde—Kentucky.

R. S. Briscoe, J. R. Bodine, E. L. Coffey, A. L. Chapman, Thomas H. Covington, Thomas P. Devor, James M. Dunlap, J. L. Downing, George W. Elliot, George W. Farrar, Wm. M. Givens, R. H. T. Gatewood, J. N. Kowns, James S. Lockridge, W. B. S. Lewis, James S. Linn, L. A. McGown, J. C. McHattan, W. S. Mitchell, D. A. Neer, Thomas E. Owen, D. T. Pace, A. W. Sydnor, John W. Stewart, J. W. White, Robert B. Wade—Missouri.

C. F. Edmund Boerner, Edward C. Heath, W. S. Lindsley, H. Lyon, Livingfield More—St. Louis, Mo.

F. V. L. Brokaw, John R. Casey, J. G. Griffith, N. C. Griffith, D. M. Logan, George Simpson—Illinois.

Maurice Cosgrave—Louisiana.

W. D. Green, Edward O. Grigsby—Mississippi.

John B. McMurtry—Arkansas.

Were admitted to the degree *Ad eundem*:

Illinois—Dr. Edward G. Castle, Dr. C. W. McGregor.

Missouri—Dr. Warner Briscoe, Dr. Robert D. Ellis, Dr. G. C. Hart.

Mississippi—Dr. Alfred Patton.

St. Louis—Dr. W. W. Bassett.

The Honorary Degree of M. D. was also conferred on Dr. Henry C. Wright, of Warren county, Mo.

After the conferring of Degrees, Professor J. H. Watters delivered the charge to the graduates. In reference to this address we take pleasure in transferring to our pages the following extract from a communication which appeared in the St. Louis Republican, and which, in our estimation, is as just as it is complimentary to the lecturer:

"The manner and voice of the speaker were unexceptionable, the arrangement of the topics discussed, lucid and natural, and the matter copious and original. It was a philosophical lecture—rich in the ingots of thought and brilliant with the gems of fancy."—*St. Louis Med. & Surg. Jour.*

FUNIS PRESENTATIONS.

BY W. TYLER SMITH, M. D.

Gentlemen,—The Funis may present alone at the beginning of labor, or it may descend with the head, arm, nates, and any other presentation of the fœtus. Its positive frequency is greatest in head cases, but relatively it is more frequent in arm and shoulder presentations than in other varieties. This serious complication may occur at any time during labor. It may happen before the evacuation of the liquor amnii, when the head or presenting part is passing the os uteri, or when it is emerging from the perinæum.

The Causes of funis presentations are various. In arm cases, where the body of the child lies transversely, the anatomical position of the umbilicus and the funis favors the descent of the cord, and this descent is still further promoted by the fact, that in shoulder cases the circular os uteri does not at all points closely embrace the presenting part, on account of its irregularities. In its contradictions, the uterus cannot sweep equably over the shovlder as it does in cranial presentations during the pains, so as to carry up the funis when there is any tendency to prolapse. Presentations of the feet and breech, or of the hands and feet, are frequently complicated with the funis, and from the same causes. In the case of head presentations, length of the cord, small size of the head, the descent of the hand with the head, a large quantity of liquor amnii, and its sudden evacuation, or a pelvis above the average size, may cause prolapsus of the cord. It happens in twin cases, particularly in the delivery of the second child. The position of the placenta is also influential as a cause of funis presentations. The cord is prone to descend when the placenta is partially attached to the os uteri, or when the placenta is fixed to the lateral walls of the placenta instead of to the fundus, or when the placenta, being seated near the fundus, the cord is inserted into the edge instead of the centre of its diameter. Mr. Roberton, of Manchester, points out that, in cases of contraction of the brim of the pelvis, where, on the rupture of the membranes, the head does not descend upon the os uteri, but remains suspended at the brim, the funis is very apt to float down with the liquor amnii and pass through the os. An interesting series of cases has been reported by Mr. Roberton, which fully bears out this view. When the head of the fœtus remains above the os uteri, the relations of the os to the presentation very much resemble those which obtain in shoulder or nates cases. There is a want of that apposition between the os uteri and the presenting part which prevents prolapsus of the cord in perfectly natural cases.

As regards the frequency of this complication, Dr. Fleetwood Churchill has collected 128,224 cases of all presentations, which yielded 579 funis cases, or about 1 in 221½. As regards the mother, labor is not in the least degree rendered more unfavorable than usual, but the mortality to the fœtus is very great. Considerably more than 1 in 2 of the children die in cases where the cord presents. In

arm presentations the mortality is rather more than 1 in 2. It will be remembered that in breech cases the mortality was 1 in 3½, and in footling cases, 1 in 2½. In turning, the fœtal mortality is rather more than 1 in 3. Thus the presentation of the funis is more dangerous to the child than any other variety of labor.

The Symptoms of funis presentations are sufficiently well marked to make their diagnosis easy. Sometimes a loop of cord, several inches in length, hangs from the vagina. It may be pulsating, or it may be cold and flaccid. But in one case the umbilical pulse, and in the other the twisted arrangement of the cord, or an ocular inspection, will remove all doubt. In cases where the cord comes down with the advancing part of the child, or presents with it at the os uteri, the only part of the full-grown fœtus which can be mistaken for it is the closed hand or the toes; the knuckles, when only part of the hand is felt; or the row of toes may feel somewhat like the end of a loop of cord. But the presence or absence of pulsation, and the examination of a few inches of the cord, or enough of the extremities to reach the wrist or the ankle, will make the matter clear. There is one complication of labor which it is necessary to mention, in which a mistake respecting the cord may lead to the most serious results. In cases of ruptured uterus, a coil of the small intestine may pass through the laceration, and present in the os uteri or the passage. This has in rare instances been mistaken for the cord of a dead child, and pulled down or even cut off by ignorant or incautious persons. A case of this kind occurred in London, and another in Ireland, incredible as it may appear, within the last ten or twelve years. In cases of this kind happening to a mid-wife, in which a medical man might be called after the rupture of the uterus and prolapse of the intestine, some little caution would be necessary to avoid mischief. An inexperienced accoucheuer might pull at the supposed cord, and do the gravest injury, particularly if the previous history of the case had been kept from him.

Of course, the cause of the Mortality in funis cases is the pressure exerted upon the cord, between the presenting parts of the child and the hard and soft parts of the mother. The child dies of asphyxia, the fœtal circulation being in severe cases entirely cut off from the respiratory functions of the placenta. We may compare the child under the circumstances of funis presentation, to cases of turning, to cases in which the arm, breech, or feet present, or even to cases in which the placenta is separated, or the contractions of the uterus are so intense and continuous as to prevent the circulation of the blood in the maternal side of the placenta. The comparison between the presentation of the funis, and the descent of the nates or feet foremost, is very obvious. Wherever the order of labor is such that the funis, or any portion of it, precedes the descent of the more bulky portions of the fœtus, the case is essentially one of funis presentation. Thus, in footling, breech, and turning cases, as soon as the umbilicus engages in the pelvis, pressure is exerted on the cord, and the cases are identical with funis presentation. The mortality depends on the length of time to which the funis is subject to pressure, and the degree of the pressure during the exit of the fœtus. Thus it is greatest in funis cases proper, in which the cord comes before or with the presenting part, and is thus subjected to pressure during the whole of labor. Next to this, footling cases are the most fatal to the child, as here the pressure on the cord commences as the umbilicus descends through the soft parts, and these have been but little distended by the descent of the feet and breech in succession. In breech cases, the mortality is less than in footling cases, because the soft parts have been distended by the passage of the nates with the feet doubled up towards the abdomen. In cases of the descent of the cord with the head, in cranial or face presentations, the pressure exerted on the cord is greater than under any other circumstances, but it is of short duration, since as soon as air can reach the mouth of the fœtus, pressure on the cord becomes of little consequence. No comparison can be made between the mortality in cases of turning and funis presentations, because the great mortality to the fœtus in turning depends on other causes as well as upon the pressure upon the cord. Certain circumstances besides the presentation exert an influence upon the mortality in funis cases. The younger the fœtus, for instance, the more safely pressure is borne, and the longer it may be continued without a fatal result. Thr risks of a fatal result to the child, when the funis presents in a first labor, are very great, whatever the part presenting with the cord. They are much less in the case of patients who have had many and easy labors. The danger is greater when the fœtus is male than female. The least dangerous cases of cord presentation are those in which it happens to the second child in twin cases, especially when, as is frequently

the case, the second child is smaller than the first. The danger is increased when the pains are very frequent and prolonged, but when the pains are moderate, and with a fair interval, the child recovers from the effects of the pressure of one pain before another comes on. Care should always be taken to inform the friends of the patient of the danger in which the child is placed by the descent of the funis.

The principle of Treatment in funis presentation is, the removal of the cord from pressure or subjecting it to compression for as short a time as possible. These objects may be carried out by the Reposition of the Cord within the uterus; by placing it in such a situation in the pelvis as to escape Pressure as far as is practicable; or by artificial delivery, as by Turning, or the use of the Forceps. No one method can be advised for the treatment of such cases. The principle of management being held in view, the means adopted in individual cases must depend upon the exigencies which attend them. As the mother is not in danger from this casualty, no steps should be taken to secure the child which are likely to bring the mother into danger, as this would be substituting a greater for a lesser evil.

(To be concluded.)

MISSOURI MEDICAL COLLEGE.

The Annual Commencement of this Institution was held on the evening of Feb. 28th, in the Mercantile Library Hall.

The following is a list of graduates, on whom the degree of M. D. was conferred:

P. Frank Beverly, Richard W. Booth, Levi H. Callaway, Newton R. Casey, A. M. Dawson, Jas. T. Duffield, James M. Edmiston, Leslie Gillette, James M. Grimes, James H. Hall, Jr., Edward R. Hall, J. Drake Harper, William H. Henderson, Benjamin C. Henslee, Berryman H. Land, W. S. McCall, Charles F. Mercer, Joseph L. Moore, H. M. Perryman, H. H. Roman, C. M. Robertson, Burkett H. Sale, Josiah H. Skilling, G. W. Stapleton, C. M. Stewart, William T. Stewart, Flemming B. Todd, John H. Thomas, John R. Trott, Lawson H. Williams, Morgan Willoughby—31.

Admitted to the *Ad-eundem* Degree—Edwin A. Casey.

Honorary Degree—John F. Boynton, W. Tyler Hutchinson, Jas. S. Downes, Moses Thomas.

Professor Frazer delivered the Valedictory Address to the graduates, before a very large audience.—*St. Louis Med. & Surg. Jour.*

COMMUNICATIONS.

[Communicated to the Medical World.]

PAST AND PRESENT COUNTRY PRACTICE.

Messrs. Editors:—In consequence of reading the comments of correspondents, on prospects professional, in various parts of the country, I have been reflecting on the condition and labors of physicians in this neighborhood. And, before commencing my remarks on the subject, permit me to say that, upon the principle that misery loves company, it is rather gratifying to know that the hardships of life, in our business, are pretty evenly subdivided in the country, if they are not in cities.

Forty years ago, with a sparse population, there was great fatigue in riding over bad roads, and long ones too, to visit the sick. It seems to me that the whole modus operandi of giving patronage to practioners, has changed. I used to be perpetually on the go, all night. A comfortable, regular, quiet slumber, in a Christian manner, was hardly possible. I was always being called up, and especially in furious storms, when the elements were in a clashing uproar. Now-a-days, physicians appear to sleep as rationally and undisturbed as their employers.

Forty years ago, in this part of the country, a physician's services were paid. If a patient died, especially the owner of a property, the common notion was, that the doctor's bill must be paid, whether any other was or not. Now, he is the last to be considered. It strikes me, on the whole, that people have been educated, in some degree, to a knowledge of what are the rights of the physician; and one of the prominent lessons to be mentioned with exceeding gratitude is this, viz.: that it is unnecessary to keep him toting here and there, and every where, all night long. There must be order in everything. At his last visit, a calculation is made in his mind in regard to a proper period for calling again. There should be an extraordinary contingency as an apology for breaking in upon the methodical course he is pursuing. Generally, such extra hasty, out-of-season calls, are useless; and next, they enhance the total of the account, which appears frightfully large; and the next phase is, to have a new medical adviser next time, who is imagined to be more reasonable in his charges.

There is another revolution going on with us, which, perhaps, may have been noted down in other places. A disposition to try every new remedy that is advertised, and all the new physicians who happen to put up their names. That quality of adhesiveness referred to by the phrenologists, which is the basis of old friendships, is hardly developed at all in the heads of modern medical patrons. Here they run from one medical gentleman to another, as they trade at a grocery, — trying the quality at one shop or another, without becoming regular, reliable customers at any of them.

But the main topic which was to occupy this paper, on sitting down to write, had reference to the prospects of the new comers into the fold of practical medicine in this locality. We are a legion, — too many for our own good, and too many for those from whom our support is to be derived. Population has increased in forty years; but the increase of physicians is wholly disproportioned to the census. Somehow, they all exist; but an expectancy is an anxious life to lead. — Those who plough, sow, and reap the harvest their industry has directed, are independent and happy; while professional gentlemen, in country towns and villages, cannot embark in agriculture or trade, and consequently they are often driven to close quarters, to keep up a show of genteel condition, on which their prospects somewhat depend. A man in a seedy coat, a begrimmed hat and bleached boots, cannot compete with a fashionably-dressed gentleman, who is as polished in manners as proper in apparel.

Those stable-minded old farmer families that formerly sent for me, twenty and thirty years ago, have been superseded. Their farms are subdivided among heirs, or cut up into lots, and another race, who know nothing of my former reputation among a departed generation, occupy their places. Consequently, in the sere and yellow leaf of sixty-five, there is a singular and rather mortifying neglect manifested towards me. Perhaps it is natural enough that there should be new laws with new lords; but it is rather startling, in the decline of one's days, when conscious of having been faithful to the utmost exactions of society, to be quite forgotten before entering the grave.

Some allowances are warrantable, when one of my years speaks of himself. Still, all this is true, if it is gossipy. Finally, here, in the interior, our fees are no better, or, rather, larger, than when our horses were boarded for one dollar a week, with oats quantum suf., while every article of necessity has risen four fold in price; and competitors for practice, where I used to command the whole, are so numerous as to represent as many schools of practice, as there are isms in modern politics.

A severe winter has been very reluctantly yielding to an approaching vernal sun. No marked sickness has been recognized, and yet we are doing something in the legitimate direction. Fevers are occasionally met with. Scarlet fever is a reserved fright, often expected, but it has not been rife in this region. Speradic cases of some of all kinds of maladies are here and there, and now and then occurring; still, good health is abounding. A call compels me to leave this letter incomplete, notwithstanding its length.

With much regard, your friend,

A. T., M. D.

WINDSOR, Vt., March 31st, 1857.

FLOATING FACTS.

Penalty for Unsuccessful Practice. — Tamouche, a war chief of the Utah Indians, put two native physicians to death, because they failed to cure two of his wives, who died under their care. He sent them, in his own philanthropic expression, *to look after their patients.* The profession would soon have their ranks thinned, were each one among ourselves subjected to the Utah system, in case of failure to restore the sick under charge.

Tenacity of Life. — Three boys were out gunning in the town of Rockland, Maine, a short time ago, and while one of them was loading his gun, it was prematurely discharged, and the iron ramrod entered near the inner angle of the right eye of John L. Craig, a lad about fifteen years of age, passed through his head. The point of the ramrod protruded through the head about four inches. It stuck so firmly in the bones that it was necessary to strike it with a hammer in order to draw it out. When last heard from, he had returning consciousness, and it is not impossible that he may recover. The case, although extraordinary, is not equal to that of the iron bar, three feet long and three-quarters of an inch in diameter, shot through a railroad contractor's head, at Cavendish, Vt., some years since, who is still alive, and presumed to be in good health.

Deterioration by Intermarriages. — In Mr. Davis's late work on New Mexico, a curious fact is given, in regard to the deterioration that must follow in families or large communities, where there is no crossing of blood. The Pueblo Indians are degenerating as a race, "the principal cause being their constant intermarriages. It is a very rare thing that any of the young men seek wives among the neighboring villages. In this respect they seem to follow the example of the royal families of Europe, and their blood is losing its strength about as rapidly." Mr. Davis declares another peculiarity of this people, which is, perhaps, without a parallel in the history of races. They have neither music nor poetry, of any description whatever. Their national dances are adhered to with extreme pertinacity, although monotonous, and without apparent elements of excitement. Their traditions cannot be extensive, or possess much interest for antiquarians, if the glorious deeds of their ancestors were never celebrated in the wild strains of uncultivated song.

Amputation of Ears. — It is related, on the 286th page of Messrs. Waddington and Hanbury's Travels in Nubia, that after the battle with the Sheygy'a, which was fought by the forces of Mahommed Ali, three camel's loads of human ears, packed in boxes, passed through Sōleb, a town above the upper cataract, on their way to Egypt. They were the witnesses, sent to testify, in mute language, to the valor of his faithful troops, then on their onward march, for conquest, towards Dongola.

Human Petrifactions. — A party hunting in Angelina county, Texas, found two hundred bodies in a cave, entirely petrified, and dressed in a style neither European nor Indian. On the waist of one was found a buckle of gold, almost three inches in diameter, imbedded in the body. The features were not much sunken, the eyes partly closed, and even traces of the eyebrows could be seen plainly.

Imagination during Sleep. — Sir Benjamin Brodie reasons thus: In sleep there is an absence of volition. If it be not wholly suspended, it is because the sleep is imperfect. The phantoms of the imagination are never stationary. They succeed each other with such rapidity, that they never can be made the subject of contemplation; and very often there is no connection (that is, none that we can trace), between that which comes first and that which follows. That there really are certain laws which regulate their production, I do not doubt, as there are laws which regulate all the phenomena of the creation; but whatever these laws may be, we know little and generally nothing of them.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Some time since the editor of the South Carolina, Dr. Gibbs, was forcibly ejected, by the Mayor and Chief of Police, from the Council Chamber, at a public meeting of the City Council of Columbia, in consequence of his refusing to submit to an inquisition whether he designed or not to report their proceedings. Dr. G. subsequently brought an action against the parties for damages, and a few days ago the case was tried, resulting in the Mayor being mulcted in $25 damages, and the Chief of Police in 6¼ cents, with costs against each.

Patrick Donally died at Providence, R. I., the other day, at the age of 103 years.

An ordinance of the city government of Boston interdicts the sale of veal, till four weeks old. In Ireland the calves are slaughtered before they are three hours old, and, as frequently as otherwise, even earlier, and the meat bears a high gastronomic value in consequence of its gelatinous qualities. In many parts of South America, fœtal calves are a delicacy which graces the tables of the opulent. A cow is not unfrequently sacrificed, in order to obtain this most prized of all exquisite dishes! There is no national standard in regard to food. That which is utterly loathsome in one country, is a royal dainty in some other. The French say — every one to his taste.

Both town and country are in the enjoyment of excellent general health. In other words, there are no epidemics, and so long as the public authorities keep a vigilant eye to the drainage, free ventilation of school-rooms, and the sale of wholesome provisions, the season promises to be one of unusual prosperity.

Railroad dividends in New England show that the corporations could not pay the salary of a surgeon, if they were disposed to have one always ready to assist those injured in the cars, without seriously diminishing the incomes of the officers who have the control.

Dr. John Bacon, of Boston, has been appointed Professor of Chemistry in the medical department of Harvard College.

The citizens of New Utrecht, Long Island, have presented to Dr. S. J. Goodrich, a purse containing $700, as a mark of their appreciation of his services in that place during the prevalence of the yellow fever last summer.

The stereotype plates of Thomson's Dictionary of Domestic Medicine, recently sold at auction, in London, brought three hundred pounds sterling! What will medical gentlemen say to this, who suppose medicine to be a more dignified profession abroad than with us?

Elisha J. Lewis, M. D., of Philadelphia, is the author of a recent work on American sports; and Edward H. Parker, M. D., the author of a treatise — a Guide in the Care of Young Children.

Dr. Henry Conolly, who wandered off to New Mexico, and settled at a place near Peralta, not far from Santa Fe, has become a man of immense wealth and influence. There is room for fifty more in that magnificent country, which is reached by going up the Missouri river to Nebraska, and then striking off over the plains, where talents would have an ample field for exercise.

Dr. T. L. Maddin, of Nashville, Tenn., had a beautiful cane presented by his private pupils. His remarks, on receiving it, were appropriate and befitting the occasion.

Several of the medical schools have a summer course of lectures, which are about commencing. To the student, they are of real importance, and when it is practicable, should be attended. The lecture room is the place where they gather instruction for after use.

Rabid dogs are beginning to be mentioned. There is generally an annual mad-dog excitement. They are so numerons in cities, as to become a nuisance.

There are extra-wise people who are beginning to talk about the probable appearance of intermittents, the coming summer, on the great rivers of the West, because the winter has been severe — which is generally followed by another of intense heat. Of course no value is to be attached to such loose philosophizings.

Lectures of the Worcester Medical School, which are now being given in Boston, are reported to meet the expectation of the trustees. This is the first term for instruction since the removal.

Several Boston physicians are making preparations for travelling the present season.

At the closing exercises of the ninth annual term of the New England Female Medical College, in Boston, medical degrees were conferred upon seven graduates — Mary Elizabeth Breed, of Lynn; Harriet Sophia Brigham, Bolton; Susan Richards Capen, Sharon; Frances Sproat Cook, Taunton; Esther Hill Hawks, Manchester, N. H.; Anna Inman, Smithfield, R. I.; Elizabeth Ann Packard, North Bridgewater. The President, Dr. Geo. Fabyan, presided; Dr. E. Rolfe gave the valedictory address, and remarks were made by the Secretary, Dr. Gregory, Lieut. Gov. Benchley, and others.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON APRIL 8, 1857.

SUMMER TRAVELLING.—Already, persons of leisure, as well as the infirm, are making inquiries respecting routes they intend taking, and the hygienic prospects that are before them in their contemplated excursions. We, of all people, are the most nervously restless. There is always something to be had by travelling for it. Those who would be essentially benefited both by a change of scenery and air, rarely have the opportunity on account of limited resources. It would be the ne plus ultra of Christian benevolence, if a person of wealth, who is querying in his mind how to dispose of a fortune, on rendering up his stewardship, would leave a fund, the annual interest of which should be given to poor, feeble, sickly women, for the express purpose of journeying two weeks, annually, instead of leaving it to plethoric colleges, and charities, in which superintendents, matrons, chief butlers and cooks take the whole for their salaries.

Many a drooping, careworn and poverty stricken woman in the Atlantic cities, with scarcely strength enough to rise from a bed, is obliged to toil with unremitting industry through the long hot days of summer, inhaling the tainted atmosphere of dark lanes and damp basement rooms, instead of being invigorated by the perfume of flowers which grow spontaneously even by the hedges and ditches in the country. By changing the scene, and gazing upon new objects, varying the diet and sleeping where there is no monopoly of the first element of health,—fresh air,—hundreds would be physically regenerated, and live for their friends and families, who are dropping, unobserved, into the grave, when they might be saved, were there any humanely disposed to save them.

English universities have travelling fellows,—supported out of funds anciently donated, that the favored individual who is thus provided for may have pleasure

and profit combined. All the schemes of benevolence are exhausted but this. A more excellent plan could not be devised for making a poor, dependent, embarrassed female, grateful. Why, her very prayers for blessings on the head of such a benefactor, would ascend like a volume of fragrant incense to heaven.

Physicians have it in their power to influence those who propose pleasure movements. By inducing their patients to take up quarters in farm-houses, and pleasant, retired villages, rather than wedge themselves into over-stocked hotels, they would confer a special favor, since nothing is gained for health when placed under such circumstances. One of the drawbacks upon the original design of going to a watering place, is completely destroyed by the intense excitements which are incident to a truly fashionable spring.

If any thing is to be permanently gained by retiring from the cities on the approach of summer, for ladies and children, it is to be sought in quiet, rural retreats, and not in mammoth establishments, which like omnibuses, although insufferably crowded, are never full.

Medical Dues.—After a deliberate examination of the St. Louis Medical Society's fee bill, it is self-evident the members are pursuing the true method, as far as it goes, for realizing their dues for professional services. This resolve was passed in January.

"Resolved that all medical bills be considered due as soon as the services are rendered, and that it be earnestly recommended to the medical profession to present their accounts once in six months."

But one more resolution is necessary, before securing their rights in full,—which will accomplish the desideratum.—Ask for the fee before leaving the house. That is the English system. No accounts are required, consequently no charges are forgotten, and the physician can always determine whether he is earning something or nothing. It must be introduced into all the large American cities, and the sooner, therefore, bold action is taken, the sooner city practice will be like most other business,—cash without credit.

There is a whining timidity in the whole management of medical accounts, that should be terminated. Excessive fear of never again being sought if the patient is asked to pay his bill, is unbecoming men of a liberal profession, in whom the public demand a very high order of qualifications.

In this connection, for the purpose of illustrating the fact that patients can be educated to suppose they must pay their physician as soon as his advice has been given, we must repeat a former declaration, that in Boston there is a foreign physician who demands his fee on the spot,—and invariably gets it. He refuses to answer any calls where the possibility is entertained of a non-compliance with his inflexible rule.

Others might imitate his course, but they dare not, because there is such competition in the medical ranks, one might lose the little patronage he has, by such a decided, peremptory John Bull policy; while others sacrifice half, certainly, and sometimes the whole of an account, simply for the want of decision. The gentleman alluded to, on returning from the fatigues of the day, empties his full pockets, London like, and puts the money at interest when a safe investment presents. He will be rich, while very many whose opportunities and orbit of practice are infinitely superior, envy his success without having independence of character to copy an excellent example.

Emigration of Physicians. — In the extensive movement now animating the people of New England, and perhaps those of many other States also, to establish themselves in the fertile, undeveloped regions of the Far West, where the earth yields a thousand fold more than the old exhausted soil of long-cultivated fields, and the strife for the necessaries of every day is a warfare with the elements as well as society. Many medical gentlemen are embarking. They are going to become landed proprietors, for the sake of securing terra firma for themselves and their children, which cannot be obtained in a community where the rich have monopolized the best farms in the country, and hold their real property in cities, at prices beyond the ability of the small capitalists to purchase.

Going West to practise medicine and surgery is absurd. Where the population is concentrated, and wealth has brought with it idleness and civilized excesses enough to support a medical practitioner, a plenty of them are on the ground. In the new settlements they rarely require medical assistance, and consequently no physicians are there. Several who might reasonably be considered firmly established in business, and those who are respected for their attainments and social qualities, are making preparation for a permanent residence in the extreme western territories. The change will be attended with some privations; but the wisdom of the measure cannot be questioned. Their fine talents and their educational accomplishments will give a tone to the new settlements where they go. While they would be growing poorer here, they will become men of substance there, by prudence and economy, far beyond whatever could be attained in these over-excited, fanatico-political communities, in which money is more potent than genius, and family influence and professional cliques out-general those who are so much in the fog of intellectual darkness, as to suppose that selfishness has been rooted out of the earth, and moral honesty inaugurated in its place.

If one-half of those struggling on against the tide that is hard to overcome in human affairs, in the ordinary practice of physic and surgery, would abandon both, while they are not too old to participate in the

magnificent improvements of the Great West, where the political forces and the intrinsic riches of the nation are rapidly centralizing, their after days might be more propitious than their morning of life has been satisfactory.

Suffolk Medical Society.—At the last social Saturday evening meeting, the supper was unmistakably attractive, and it is gratifying that this device brings the members in goodly numbers together. They ought not to be such strangers to each other. How common to be asked, Who is that gentleman? Keep up the entertainments, and kind fellowship and science will go hand in hand.

At the subsequent meeting, April first, officers were chosen for the year ensuing, with a long list of counsellors, for the district. A list of representatives to the national convention at Nashville, in May, was nominated by a select committee, and confirmed. Dr. Channing was again elected President, and Dr. Parks, Secretary.

Poverty of Intellect. — One of the journals complains of the lack of original medical contributions to the periodicals, and makes the assertion, with qualifications, that the periodicals copy too much from each other. This may be true; but how much good judgment is displayed in that mode of management, when an editor is conscious that his own matter would be ruinous to his medico-literary prospects. It is an art well understood in this country — making up pages from a neighbor who took the materials from somebody else. On the whole, however, the amount of original communications in the journals indicates considerable effort on the part of contributors, when we take into consideration the embarrassments with which they are obliged to contend, if they happen to be country practitioners. They are incessantly on the move, from one point to another, which consumes all their time. This is an apology. Borrowed articles may sometimes be superior to home productions.

What is there New in Medicine? — This a question often asked. Very much that is claimed to be new is quite old; and many men who are at first thought to be original in their views, are found to be repeating forgotten suggestions of a former age. There is no hesitancy in saying what is needed, that would be new in medicine. New facts, but no more theories; if the latter had any medicinal influence over disease, the materia medica would be copious beyond its present catalogue of remedies. If there were fewer opinionated theorists, there would not have been such a variety of practitioners at variance with each other. It is far easier to construct an imaginary explanation of the laws of disease, than to prescribe an antidote for a malady.

MARRIAGES.

Dr. V. W. Mason, of Canandagua, N. Y., to Miss H. R. Whiting.

At Swords, Ireland, Wm. J. Shields, M. D., to Miss E. L. Crozier.

At Belfast, Ireland, James B. T. Smith, M. D., to Miss J. Neill.

DEATHS.

At Van Buren, Arkansas, Elizur Butler, M. D., 62.

At Michaelstane, Ireland, Mrs. Jane, wife of the late Thomas M. Evans, M. D.

At Columbus, Ohio, S. G. Jones, M. D., formerly a professor in one of the Schools of Medicine at Cincinnati.

At Nicaragua, William H. Saunders, M. D., a surgeon in the government service, 37.

At Wheeling, Virginia, S. P. Hullihan, an eminent surgeon, whose death is greatly deplored. His remains were followed to the grave by a procession of several thousand citizens.

DEATHS REPORTED AT THE CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 28.

John Garey 7 days, Wm Shaughnessy 18 mos, Emma L Noel 4 do, Mary A Clark 43 do, Lizzie W Gardner 5 yrs, Jas Hennessey 14 do, Loami H Patten 36 do, Dennis Manning 50 do, Michael Driscoll 8 do, Patrick Moran 49 do, Catharine Fox 20 do, Jeremiah Lenahan 40 do, Edward Fitzgerald 8 do, Augustus D'Este 23 do, Rosanna Dooley 38 do, Thomas Courcey 33 do, Mary Healy 45 do, Adam Bent 81 do, Cora W Pierce 13 mos, Thomas Flood 12 do, Mary A McQueeny 11 do, Mary A Roach 5 yrs, Shepherd Simonds 76 do, John Thomas 38 do, Harriet Fowles 57 do, Jedediah Sawtell 70 do, Chas E White 2 do, Edw Calnan 26 do, Almira Foreman 58 do, Mary A Roache 5 do, Catharine Wright 29 do, James Murphy 9 mos, Michael McDonald 11 do, James F McConnell 16 do, Joanna H Covill 35 yrs, Joanna Davis 67 do, John Mack 24 do, Martha A McLeer 4 do, Margaret Logue 70 do, Daniel Martin 18 do, Ann McFeely 4 do, Thomas Benson 42 do, Grace Lyons 1 mo, Clarissa D Darling 9 mos, Wm Vaughn 12 do, Wm O'Connor 2 do, Bridget Kelly 32 yrs, George G Newbrook alias Thos Grindly 50 do, Richard Boyle 40 do, James Quigley 3 do, Ann Harrington 23 do, Patrick McCulloch 19 do, Levi Beal 76 do, William Montgomery 41 do, child of Charles S. and Betsey R. Davis 1 day, Patrick Kern 21 days, child of Wm and Deborah Chute 5 do, child of Lucius W. and Mary F Freeman 1 day, Mary A Howard 10 mos, Eunice Brown 50 yrs, Frederick J Wheaton 4 do, Martha Gray 86 do, Toussaint L O Rock 3 do, Nancy G Sylvester 78 do, Wm F Foley 8 do, Samuel B Elwell 59 do, Charles Scott 36 do, Helen V Robinson 6 yrs.

Diseases.—Accident 2, convulsions 2, consumption 13, cancer 2, debility 2, dropsy 4, dropsy in head 3, infantile diseases 4, unknown do 2, typhoid fever 2, scarlet fever 9, inflammation of lungs 3, congestion of do 2, pleurisy 2, other diseases 1 each, 16. Total 68. Males 39, females 29. 50 were born in United States, 15 in Ireland, and 3 in other foreign places.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE

MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME II. APRIL 15, 1857. NUMBER 3.

TRIAL FOR MALPRACTICE.

For the Plaintiff—J. R. Cocke, and Welcker & Humes, Esqs.
For the Defendant—Horace Maynard, Esq.

This case came up before the Supreme Court of Tennessee, upon a bill of exceptions from the Circuit Court of Knox county.

Being the first trial of the kind in this State, it possesses some interest to the medical profession at least. It was for an alleged mal-practice in the treatment of fracture of one of the bones of the forearm, and dislocation of the wrist. The trial was first set for hearing at the October court of 1854, before his Honor Judge Alexander, but was laid over from time to time till October, 1855, when, after an examination of all the witnesses, a verdict was rendered by the jury against the defendant for $1000, and costs of suit. A motion was made for a new trial, which, being argued, the court refused to grant; whereupon the defendant appealed to the Supreme Court of Tennessee. From the Bill of Exceptions we gather the following testimony in the case.

TESTIMONY FOR PLAINTIFF.

John Gibbs testified that on or about the 15th of July, 1854, he was at a meeting at Clapp's chapel, in Knox county, and intelligence came that plaintiff had fallen from a horse and broken his arm. This was about 5 o'clock, P. M. Plaintiff lived about one and a-half miles from the meeting-house. Witness, after consulting plaintiff's father, Soloman Clapp, went for defendant to come to the relief of plaintiff. Found him at home and told him his errand. Defendant said he would go, but was a good while in getting ready to start. Witness went to plaintiff's house—several miles from defendant's—in advance of defendant. Found plaintiff in a good deal of pain. Started back for defendant; met him and went with him to plaintiff's house.

Plaintiff asked defendant if he had ever had such a case before; defendant replied that he could not tell until he had made an examination. After examining the arm, defendant directed some splints to be prepared. They were prepared accordingly by the father of the plaintiff, who brought them to defendant several times, and altered them according to the direction of defendant. (The splints were produced in court and shown to the jury.) Dr. Wood then commenced attempting to reduce the fracture and dislocation. He told witness to take hold of the fingers of the injured arm, and a man by the name of James M. Roach to take hold of the arm of the elbow, and directed them how to pull. The bone of the left arm, on the same side as the thumb, was broken a few inches above the wrist joint, and the joint of the wrist dislocated.

The knot on the other bone protruded out very distinctly, and the hand much twisted out of its natural position. Witness and Roach, under the direction of the defendant, commenced pulling—the one at the hand, and the other at the elbow; while the defendant worked with his fingers at the wrist and on the point of the fracture. Witness distinctly remembers the position of the arm while they were so engaged. The top of the hand was up and the palm down, the thumb pointing in towards the body.

While they were engaged in pulling, witness heard a sharp snapping sound. Defendant said it was all right now, and commenced applying the splints and bandages. Witness observed that the hand and arm still appeared to be crooked and out of their natural position, and the knot on the bow of the arm on the same side with the little finger, protruded out considerably. Witness called Dr. Wood's attention there, asking him when he commenced applying the splints and bandages, if he did not mean to do something more, for the arm was not straight. He replied that it would

come straight—that nature would bring it all right. He then proceeded to apply the splints and bandages. He first wrapped a strip of cloth on the arm, something higher up than the point of the fracture, and down to the wrist. This wrapped round about four times, and the splints placed on this. One on the top and the other on the bottom of the arm. One extending from the elbow to the ends of the fingers, the other to the knuckles. The first was that which was placed along the palm of the hand. A strip of cloth was then wrapped over these, which held them to the arm. Witness noticed all the time that the top of the hand was up, the thumb towards the body. Plaintiff at the time was in a bed on the floor, propped up with a chair and pillows. A pillow was then placed on the bed, rather on his lap, as it were, and his arm was placed on that by Dr. Wood, with the top of the hand still up, with the thumb towards the body. Wood (the defendant) said that Clapp would soon be easy, and would get a good night's rest. He directed that cold water be poured on the arm, and when the arm swelled, that the bandages should be loosened. There was some swelling at the time Wood was attempting to reduce the fracture and dislocation, and much more afterwards.

Witness remained at the house of the plaintiff, to sit up with him all night. About the time Wood left, or a little before, Dr. Crippen came. The individual who had gone for Dr. Buckly, not finding him at home, had brought Crippen. Crippen at that time did nothing at all. After Wood left, plaintiff appeared to be in great pain. His arm swelled rapidly. About two o'clock in the morning witness went for Dr. Crippen. He came, but did nothing but loosen the bandages and substitute strips of pasteboard for the wooden splints used by Dr. Wood. Witness assisted Dr. Crippen in doing this. It was done very carefully, and the position of the arm was not changed. At this time the arm was considerably swollen. Dr. Crippen died in a few weeks after this time. The father of plaintiff, while he and witness were making the splints, asked Dr. Wood if had ever had such a case before. He answered that he had not in this country, but he had in the old country. Dr. Wood is a native of England. He is a practising physician, and attends to all the cases he can get.

Cross-examined.—Says that if the arm was bathed in warm water before the bandages were put on, he does not recollect it. Is pretty certain that Wood did not ask for flax or cotton to put under the bandages next to the skin. Did not say when he was examined as a witness on the trial of the suit brought by defendant against plaintiff for his fee before Esquire Zachry, that when Wood put on the bandages the arm was straight.

(The plaintiff exhibited his injured arm. The dislocated wrist bone protruded. The fractured bone was not united, and there was an indentation at the fracture, one piece of the bone inclining to the centre of the arm, the other to the skin; the hand was twisted in toward the body; the joint of the wrist was stiff; the whole arm was withered, not being half as large as the other.)

DAVID WALKER, a witness, deposes and says, that he was at the house of plaintiff, the evening the injury occurred. Found the defendant, Wood, there. Heard a snap, and Dr. Wood said it was straight. Witness did not notice at that time whether it was straight or not. From his position did not have a good opportunity of seeing. Witness noticed that while they were pulling at the arm, that the back of the hand was up, with the thumb pointing in toward the body. It was in this position when the bandages and splints were applied, and was left in that position by Dr. Wood. Dr. Wood told them when he left, that it must be kept in that position, and bathed in cold water; he also directed that if the arm should swell, that the bandages should be loosened. He stayed with the plaintiff, and sat up all night. Plaintiff was restless and suffered very greatly. The arm swelled a good deal before Dr. Crippen came. Dr. Crippen came about two o'clock. He took off the board splints and substituted strips of pasteboard. The bandages had been loosened a little before he came, as Dr. Wood had directed. It was done very carefully. Witness noticed when Dr. Crippen took off the outer bandage, that the arm looked crooked, that the hand was twisted, and that the knot on the bow of the left arm, on the same side with the little finger, stuck out considerably. (Plaintiff offered to prove what Dr. Crippen said about the arm, and the reason he did not attempt to perform another operation, but the evidence was excluded as hearsay by the court.) Crippen did not change the position of the arm.

Cross-examined.—Says that he heard a snap, and Dr. Wood said it was straight. Did not see it bathed before it was set, and if it was, it was done before witness got there. It was bathed by pouring cold water on it after

the bandages and splints were put on. There was something said about a sling, but I don't know what. I think it was put in a sling, and rested upon a pillow on his lap, with the top of the hand up.

Dr. JOHN J. MOORMAN testified that he is, and for many years has been a physician. He examined the plaintiff's wrist, and said if it had been injured as stated, by a fall from a horse, he had fallen upon the outer part of the hand. Had broken one of the bones of the forearm, and dislocated the other at the wrist. The injury was a very serious one, requiring a good deal of care and attention. That the mode described by the witnesses pursued by the defendant in reducing the fracture, was the one ordinarily adopted, except that the back of the hand ought not to have been up during the operation, for that would make the bones of the arm, the radius and ulna, between the elbow and the wrist, cross and twist over each other, whereas they ought to have been kept parallel. This fact any one, at all acquainted with the anatomy of the arm, ought to know. The splints were such as are generally used, though he would have prescribed a third one to be applied laterally; and, in placing the arm after the operation, the palm should have been placed parallel with the body, and not perpendicular to it, with the thumb pointing inwards towards the body.

The defendant's counsel asked the witness whether, as a question of professional skill, the defendant, having had but a single interview with the plaintiff, and being dismissed from the case within a few hours thereafter, with no opportunity to make any further operation, the defendant could be responsible for a failure to reduce the fracture and effect a cure?

To this inquiry the plaintiff's counsel objected. The court sustained the objection, to which plaintiff excepted. The defendant's counsel proposed to enter upon the inquiry with each of the professional witnesses introduced, but the court upon the objection of the plaintiff, overruled and excluded the testimony, stating that the question was one of legal liability, not for the witnesses to determine. Witness said the arm might have been reset, at any time, from ten to twenty days after the injury. He would say ten days certainly, but this would depend on circumstances. The arm might become so swollen and tender in a few hours, as to render it impossible to reset it. Witness further said, that if it was at all practicable to reduce the dislocation and fracture, with the back of the hand up, as the witnesses described it, yet with the arm in that position, the difficulty of keeping the bones in place, would be greatly increased, in consequence of the pressure and lever action the bones would exercise mutually on each other; and the natural effect would be to throw the dislocated bone out of its place again, and to separate the fracture.

Dr. P. FATIO, a physician resident in Knoxville, testified substantially as Dr. Moorman, except as to the necessity of a third splint. He thought two splints entirely sufficient, and that a third would have been at least unnecessary, and perhaps in the way. Another surgeon might have again set the arm at any time within fifteen or twenty days after the failure of the first operation, the length of the time depending on the age, habits, strength, and constitution, and the condition of the limb. Witness said when a fracture or dislocated limb was properly reduced, it was apt, and generally did give the patient ease, until the knitting commenced, in case of fracture, and the healing in case of dislocation.

TESTIMONY FOR DEFENDANT.

JAMES M. ROACH, a witness on the part of the defendant, deposes, and says, that when he got to the house of the plaintiff, he found the plaintiff badly injured by a fall from a horse. Was directed by Dr. Wood to pull at the elbow, while John Gibbs pulled by the fingers. Dr. Wood worked with his fingers at the wrist and where the arm was broken. He heard a snap, and Dr. Wood said it was straight. Witness did not notice it particularly, but supposing that Dr. Wood knew his business, thought it was straight. If the arm was bathed in warm water, before the splints were put on, witness does not recollect it. Witness recollects that when he and John Gibbs were pulling at the elbow and the hand, that the top of the hand was up and the palm down. It was bending in that position and left in it. The splints were brought in two or three times before they were pronounced suitable by defendant. They appeared to fit the arm and to lie easily upon it. Dr. Crippen came several times. He took off what defendant had put on, and applied pasteboards. It was about sundown when defendant set the arm, and about midnight when Dr. Crippen took off the bandages.

Cross-examined.—Says he thought the arm was straight for the above reasons. Is confident as to the position of the hand and arm. Thinks he left plaintiff's house a little before

sundown. Did not go back again that night. Wood left about the time witness did.

SOLOMON CLAPP, father of plaintiff, testified that by his son's directions he told defendant that his services were no longer wanted, that during the night they had called in Dr. Crippen. This was the next morning. His son, the plaintiff, had so directed him. Witness said the pain increased from the time Dr. Wood left on all night, and this was the reason they sent for Crippen. And Dr. Wood told them when he was done setting it, that he would get easier after a while; but he did not get easier, but almost crazy with pain, and was very much swollen when Crippen got there.

This was the material testimony in the case.

His Honor Judge ALEXANDER charged the jury as follows:

A man who holds himself out to the public as qualified and skilled in any particular profession, art, or avocation, is responsible for the want of the necessary and proper knowledge, skill or science which his profession demands. A lawyer who follows his profession and solicits business, is required by law to have such an amount of legal knowledge and learning as will enable him to discharge, with reasonable skill, and learning, and success, the several duties incumbent on him in his professional capacity. If wanting in such measure of knowledge and skill, and from such cause injury and loss result to his client, he is bound to make compensation. In holding himself out to the public as a lawyer, he impliedly contracts with his clients that he possesses the necessary and proper knowledge pertaining to his profession, and also that he will bestow all necessary care and diligence upon such business as may be entrusted to his professional management. So in the case of the physician and surgeon. He impliedly contracts with those who employ him, that he has such skill, science, and information as will enable him properly and judidiously to perform the several duties of his calling. If he is wanting in such skill, science, and information, and by reason thereof injures those who employ him in the line of his profession, then he is responsible for such injury or damage, at the suit of the party so suffering from such malpractice. This is the general rule of law applicable to all professions, arts, and mysteries. But it is to be observed that the law does not require every or any professional man to possess the *highest degree* of skill and science. It demands only such reasonable skill and science as will enable him prudently, discreetly, and sensibly, to discharge the usual duties of his profession.

In the case now submitted for your consideration, you will inquire from the proof whether the defendant exercised such reasonable skill, science, and knowledge, in setting and treating the plaintiff's limb, as I have already told you is required of the surgeon and physician. If he did, then the plaintiff cannot recover. But if the plaintiff was injured by reason of the defendant's want of care and skill, then the plaintiff can recover such an amount of damages as you may believe he is shown to have suffered. The success or failure of an operation is not conclusive of the possession of skill or the want of it. The surgeon, as other professional men, contracts for reasonable care and skill, and is responsible for ignorance and negligence, from which serious injury and suffering result.

If the plaintiff has been seriously and permanently injured, but that injury did not result from the negligence or want of sufficient skill on the part of the defendant, then the plaintiff cannot recover. If you shall believe from the proof in the case, that the injury was the result of the defendant's being discharged as the attending surgeon, and the negligence or want of skill in others, then the plaintiff cannot recover.

He is of course responsible only for his own conduct while he was allowed to treat the case, and not for anything that took place subsequently.

The jury found for the plaintiff, and assessed damages one thousand dollars. Defendant obtained a rule for a new trial, which was continued for consideration by the court. On the argument of the rule for new trial, defendant introduced his own affidavit which was in the following words, and made a part of the bill of exceptions.

The defendant made oath, that on the trial of this case he was surprised by the testimony of witnesses, touching the position of the plaintiff's arm and hand at the time the operation was performed, which is the subject matter of complaint in this suit. That he knew of no witness by whom he could prove what he avers to be the truth in that behalf. That the hand was left by him reclining easily upon a pillow, nearly parallel with the front part of the body. Since the trial he was informed, and heard for the first time, that Freeman Skaggs was present from a period shortly after affiant left the house

of the plaintiff, until a late hour in the night, and that he is able to state how the fact is. He has also been informed, and heard for the first time since the trial, that said Skaggs knows that after affiant left the plaintiff, at the time of the operation, the plaintiff moved both himself and his arm a great deal in various ways, and that said Skaggs loosened the bandage applied by affiant, before the arrival of Dr. Crippen. All the testimony of the said Skaggs was unknown to affiant until since the trial, nor did affiant even know that he had been present or had any information on the subject.

He introduced Freeman Skaggs, who testified that he was present at the time the plaintiff's arm was operated on by defendant. That after it was laid upon a pillow flat upon the body, the thumb inclining a little inward. That he is a stranger to defendant, and presumes defendant knew nothing of his being in possession of any facts bearing on the case. He had been told since the trial, of some of the testimony on this subject, and had taken occasion to state his own knowledge about it, from which he supposes defendant came in possession of the facts that are known by him (the witness.)

He also introduced Drs. F. A. Ramsey, Wm. J. Baker, and O. F. Hill, who testified that according to well settled principles of surgical practice, they were clearly of opinion that if Dr. Wood, after being called in to operate on the plaintiff's arm, another surgeon was called in a few hours, and the case given into his hands, and Dr. Wood dismissed, unless Dr. Wood had displayed gross unskilfulness, that Dr. Wood could not be considered and held responsible for a failure to effect a cure. That if his operation had proven ineffectual, the arm might have been reset at any time from fifteen to thirty days afterwards, and instances have occurred in which it has been done from five to six weeks. That they would require the patient to undergo all risk and hazard. They also agree with other physicians, that they would never attempt to reduce such an injury with the back of the hand up. The "radius and ulna bones" ought of course to be kept parallel, which could not be done with the back of the hand up.

The court discharged the rule and refused the new trial, whereupon the appeal was made to the Supreme Court.

On examination of the evidence contained in the bill of exceptions, the bench of the Supreme Judges affirmed the judgment of the lower court.—*South. Jour. Med. and Phys. Sciences.*

FUNIS PRESENTATIONS.

BY W. TYLER SMITH, M. D.

(Concluded.)

A primary rule in the management of these cases is, the preservation of the Liquor Amnii. As long as the membranes remain unbroken, it is hardly possible for the child to be destroyed by compression of the cord, and not until they are broken should any attempt be made to replace the funis. It cannot be done effectually; the child is as yet in little or no danger; and attempts at manipulation must hazard the rupture of the membranes. The more labor progresses before the evacuation of the amnion, the shorter will be the time of serious compression, and the less the amount of compression will be from the gradual dilatation of the soft parts under fluid pressure.

The Reposition of the Cord within the uterus is the most satisfactory method of treatment we can adopt, but unfortunately it is not always practicable, or else the pains cause the renewed descent of the cord after its temporary replacement. The degree to which the cord should be returned is a matter of some difference of opinion. Sir Richard Croft recommended that the cord should be carried up into the uterus so as to hang it upon the limbs of the child. Others, as Arneth, of Vienna, advise that it should be returned above the head, and allowed to remain in the hollow formed by the neck. No doubt, the latter answers every purpose, if the cord will keep there, since children are frequently born with the cord coiled once or twice round the neck without injury, and the introduction of the hand into the uterus during labor is necessarily attended with some risk to the mother, except in the most favorable cases. Various methods of procedure have been advised for the reposition of the cord. The most simple instrumental method is by the use of a whalebone needle or bodkin, and a loop of tape. This, as Dr. Ramsbotham remarks, has the advantage of being made extemporaneously in a few minutes in the lying-in room. A flat piece of moderately flexible whalebone, about half an inch in breadth and a foot in length, and a yard of tape, are all that is necessary for its construction. An eye or hole should be made near one extremity of the whalebone, large enough to allow the tape to run in it readily. In using it a loop of the tape should be passed through the eye, and the end of the loop of funis should be included in the loop of

the tape, when the ends of the tape should be drawn so as to bring the loop of funis towards the eye of the instrument, and to retain it there without exerting pressure enough on the cord to interfere with the placento-fœtal circulation. The whalebone should now be passed into the uterus by the side of the presenting part, in an interval between the pains, and after having been kept there during a pain, the tape may be brought away by drawing at one of the strings, and the slip of whalebone afterwards removed. If this noose be relaxed a little, so as to avoid strangulation of the cord, there can be no harm in leaving the instrument in the utero-vaginal canal, as it offers no impediment to the progress of labor. Michælis, of Kiel, recommended that a large-sized, male, gum-elastic, stiletted catheter should be used for the same purpose. He advised that the ligature should be passed *through* the loop of funis, when, being drawn loosely to the eye of the catheter, and the stilette being introduced only so as to avoid the possibility of doing injury, the instrument is to be passed above the head or presenting part, and there left, the stilette being withdrawn, until the completion of labor. But at the present time, Michælis has, I believe, abandoned his ingenious instrument for the use of the fingers. I see no reason why the cord should not, when it is sufficiently low to admit of manipulation, and when it returns after reposition, be pierced with a needle and thread or worsted, in such a way as to escape the vessels, and be tied to the end of a slip of whalebone, which might then be returned, and kept *in situ* until the completion of labor. But in ordinary cases, the accoucheur can do more with the hand and fingers than with the most ingenious instruments. In returning the cord with the hand, two or three fingers, of the right or left hand, as may be most convenient, should be introduced by the side of the head or presenting part, and with the tips of the fingers the prolapsed portion of the cord, being gathered together, should be pressed upwards during an interval of freedom from pain and retained above the presenting part until the next pain comes on. When the uterine contraction of the uterus reaches the fingers, they should be withdrawn, so as, if possible, to leave the funis within the grasp of the uterus. The contraction of the uterus will, if the operation be successful, sweep the cord upwards, instead of expelling it. It may, however, come down again when the uterus is relaxed, or it may be extruded by the succeeding pains, and require other attempts of the same kind to keep it above the presenting part. Drs. M'Clintock and Hardy, whose directions for the reposition of the cord are very excellent, advise that in attemping its reduction, by the hand, the woman should lie upon the side opposite to that on which the cord protrudes; that is, if the cord be felt on the right side of the pelvis, the woman should lie on her left side, and *vice versa*. They also recommend that before its return it should be drawn, if possible, towards the pubis, as the shallowness of the pelvis in this situation renders the return of the procident cord more easy that when it lies towards the sacrum. As long as the pulsation of the cord is vigorous, we should not be deterred by difficulties in attempting its reposition, as this is sometimes effected only after repeated trials.

When, in spite of our endeavors, the cord slips down again at every pain, means are recommended for keeping the funis above the presenting part. This may sometimes be done by passing a wedge of sponge up after the cord, as recommended by Dr. Collins, so that when the pains come on, the sponge is compressed between the presentation and the walls of the canal, and the further descent of the funis prevented. Sometimes, where the extent of funis prolapsed is considerable, and the cord thin, so as easily to slip down, some authorities have recommended that it should be gathered together, and put in a soft leather pouch or bag, the mouth of which should be drawn together sufficiently to keep the mass in the bag, but not to constrict the cord. The bag is then to be passed up within the os uteri by the fingers. This manœuvre substitutes a considerable mass for the thin lubricious cord, and is less likely to be protruded after its re-position. The bag remains, when the proceeding is successful, until the child is expelled. This operation is, however, difficult, and one now rarely, if ever, attempted.

When the cord cannot be returned or retained within the uterus, it becomes necessary to place the prolapsed cord in such a position in the pelvis that it may be compressed as little as possible during the passage of the child. It should be brought, as recommended by Dr. S. Merriman, into the oblique diameter of the pelvis, opposite to that which is occupied by the child. In a vertex case in the first position, with the head in the right oblique diameter, the funis should be kept as closely as possible to the left sacro-iliac synchondrosis, in the second position, with the head in the left oblique diameter, and in both cases the rectum

should be emptied, but particularly the first, as the cord then lies between the side of the child's head and the rectum of the mother. In other presentations, when no other assistance can be rendered or seems necessary, the cord should be shifted as far as possible into that part of the pelvis which is least occupied by the child. It should rarely, if ever, be brought towards the pubic arch, as in this position the effects of pressure are generally very great. In cases of large pelvis, in multiparous women, when the pains are moderately strong, and occurring at proper intervals, the passages being well relaxed, and labor completed in a short time, the arrangement of the position of the cord will often be sufficient to secure the safety of the fœtus. In primiparous women, or where there is rigidity of the soft parts and a small pelvis, such measures are of little or no avail in arresting the long effects of pressure.

The propriety of Turning in cases of funis presentation, combined with any other part of the child than its pelvic extremity, is one of the vexed questions of obstetrics. Many eminent authorities have commended, and others condemned, this practice. The truth is, that the fitness of turning for any particular case requires great tact and judgment, and admits of no reduction to rule. Mauriceau performed it in a number of cases with great success in saving the child. So did Boivin and Lachapelle, and so have many contemporary accoucheurs. The strong point in the operation is, that it enables us to complete delivery in a shorter time than would otherwise be the case, and in this way the chances of safety to the child are increased. The weak points are, that the operation is not perfect, considered in relation to the object we have in view. It does not deliver the child from danger, but substitutes the risk of pressure from the shoulders and head upon the cord after the passages have been distended by the breech, for the primary pressure of the cord by the head without any previous distension of the parturient canal. Of course, in arm cases in which the funis presents, version is performed, but with reference rather to the arm than the funis complication. It would be very interesting to have a statistical comparison between the results to the child in those cases in which the funis presents in combination with the pelvic extremity and those in which it presents with the cephalic end of the fœtus. But I believe no such statistic exists, and, in its absence, we must consider the question of turning upon other grounds. In this country, the tendency, in recent years, has been to consider, with Dr. Robert Lee, that turning should rarely be practised. I believe the cases in which version is in proper operation, simply on account of funis presentation, are rare; but there are other contingencies, such as moderate contraction of the pelvis, cases where the pelvis is capacious, where other means have been tried in vain, and where turning can be easily performed, but there is evidence that the child is passing into a dangerous state, in which the operation of turning will save fœtal life without more than very slight hazard to the mother.

In cases where the labor has sufficiently advanced, the use of the Forceps or the Vectis, the administration of the ergot of rye or a stimulating enema, are of great value in completing delivery. These means are to be reserved for those cases in which prolapsus occurs, or continues, when the head is low in the pelvis, and the os uteri is fully dilated. In cases where the funis is complicated with breech or footling presentation, the means described when speaking of breech cases, for hastening delivery and preserving the child, should be practised.

When the cord remains pulseless and flaccid for a considerable time, the child is already dead, and we may save ourselves from anxiety or attempts at delivery. We must not, however, be in too great a hurry to consider the child beyond hope. Cases are on record in which the cord being pressed upon from above, the loop hanging down is pulseless from pressure on the arteries, but the heart may beat for a considerable time, and the child ultimately be born alive. Sometimes in the conduct of these cases, the cord will cease to pulsate and the heart of the child will fail, but nevertheless, from some alteration of position, the heart rallies and the pulsation of the cord is restored. Those cases in which the cord comes down with the head, most easily admit of the reposition of the cord, where, as in breech cases, the cord has a great tendency to come down after its replacement. Although when the cord comes down before the rupture of the liquor amnii, the child is in no danger as long as the membranes remain intact, such cases are very dangerous to the child from the length of time during which it is generally subjected to pressure. On the contrary, when the cord descends towards the completion of labor, the risks of the child are less, because we generally have it in our power to complete delivery within a given time in such cases. The length of time the cord may prolapse in some cases

without destroying the child, is extraordinary. I once knew a case where it was prolapsed three whole days, but was afterwards reposited, and the child was born alive.—*Lanc.*

COGITATIONS AND VATICINATIONS.

Look at our "Practices of Medicine;" will any man conclude that the physician is in duty bound to read all these, each "*Practice*" consisting of two volumes for the most part, and each scarcely differing from the others? If every one of them consisted of important matter not to be found in the rest, then it would be the practitioner's duty to read the whole of them. If they are all about alike, one will do, and it makes no great difference which one of them is selected. I would recommend Watson or Elliotson, and they have the merit of being in one volume instead of two or three. I would be glad if we had but one "Practice of Medicine." If these lines shall meet the eyes of any one who is meditating the infliction of another desideratum on the profession in this line, I hereby pray him to let the hiatus into which, Curtius-like, he is preparing to precipitate himself, remain unfilled. If he must write, let him give cases—speculate on physiological or pathological topics—but no more *practices*. Let him "take any shape but that."

For myself, I object to any Practice of Medicine I ever saw; they are all too empirical, tautological, and diffuse and profuse. Each succeeding chapter is pretty much a repetition of the first. Really, I think that some of our two volumes "Practices" might be condensed into fifty pages octavo, fine large print, without omitting anything important or unimportant. All that I would ask would be that there should be no *repetitions*. One entire volume is generally devoted to Inflammation. We have inflammation of the brain, of the lungs, of the ——— all the organs in a certain order—a chapter for every organ. Now inflammation is the same everywhere, and the treatment is nearly the same, whether in liver, lungs or brain. One chapter is enough for inflammation. Sir Walter Scott gave as a reason for making his History of Napoleon so large, that he had not the time to make it smaller! The readers of medical books would thank the authors of them if they would take time to make said books smaller; to restrain their *diarrhœa pennæ* with the wholesome astringent of concise and perspicuous thought. But two volumes are the fashion now-a-days, and the candidate for immortality does not like to stoop to less. All that he has to add to other "Practices" would not require a page, yet he will fill those two mortal volumes. The truth is, and we all know it, many authors write books merely to see their names in print, or to make money; not because they wish to fill a hiatus or answer a desideratum. One book I would buy at any price—a book consisting of prefaces, containing the real objects which authors have had in view when writing books, especially medical books, and in particular "Practices on Medicine." Such a book is a desideratum; it would fill a hiatus.

Were I a *Dictator* in Medicine, I would make it felony to publish another "Practice." Alas, for the eyes they have destroyed—for the brains they have crazed—for the hopes they have inspired, only to crush. Young aspirant for medical knowledge and fame! with spectacles on nose, an Old Fogy would give you this advice: Eschew all bad practices, and especially "Medical Practices;" you may read one if you wish. Devote yourself to anatomy; master the organization of the human system. Devote yourself to physiology; master as far as possible the functions of the organs and parts; note as far as you can the influence of the various agents which are capable of modifying them—which, by the by, is a part of physiology. Under the same head disease itself may be ranked, for pathology is but modified physiology. Act in accordance with this advice, and you will be prepared to do all for man that doctors can do, and far better prepared than he who, having devoted but little attention to these fundamental branches, has employed years in the reading of a hundred "Practices."

I have spoken of those who underrate physicians, and who believe or pretend to believe that they always do harm, or, at least, no good. The only reply I shall deign to such is, that it is a well-established fact, that many persons—men, women and children—have died without ever seeing a doctor or taking medicine. I would not have the physician to be always poring over even good medical works. Variety is the spice of life, and its tonic also. Down with Rokitansky if you feel fatigued. Take up old Christopher North, and enjoy his Recreations; they will rest you. When water is saturated with one salt, it will dissolve some portion of another. Walking is rest to the sedentary. Change, mutation, is the law of

creation, inanimate and animate. I say again, read CHRISTOPHER NORTH, the inimitable Old Kit; or ride, like a yacht, over the graceful and measured billows of Macaulay's artistic style; or take a journey with Wordsworth in his "*excursions*," or a "*pilgrimage*" with Childe Harold; visit the "land of the mountain and the flood" with Burns and Scott, or, if you prefer it, go to "Hell" with Milton and Dante. History, philosophy, theology, and the blooming fields of literature should be familiar to the physician. He should know something of all these; they will render him more of a gentlemen, more agreeable at the bedside of even a drayman, not to speak of polished ladies and gentlemen. You can do more with your jalap from having read "Jerusalem Delivered;" your mercury and iodine will do all the better from having read "Les Martyres et les memoires d'Outre tombe." What! do you expect to cure a long and painful malady without knowing anything of Hudibras or Don Quixote? without having read, perhaps, even Gil Blas or Gilfillan? I tell you to read Dickens, and especially "David Copperfield,"—Bulwer, especially "Eugene Aram" and "the Caxtons"—Thackery, especially the "Book of Snobs" (you need not undertake "The Newcombs")—Kennedy, especially "Swallow Barn," a book rich in wit, and more pleasantly antibilious than Cooke's pills—Cooper, especially "The Homeward Bound" (I am sorry that I have not read him more)—Washington Irving, especially his "Knickerbocker." Read Holmes's Poems; they will expel several additional volumes of carbonic acid from your lungs; and keep on reading from Holmes, back through the "Vista of Ages," until you come to Homer, whose translation by Pope is thought by many critics to be superior to the original. Gather up literary gems for your patients, avoiding however the useless labor of "casting pearls before swine."

Make your patients read; select for them; lend them suitable books. I think I have done good in this way. Moral medicine is often better than material drugs. If you should write verses, bore your patients with them; but mind that you auger well in the beginning, and do not bore too far. Here are some verses which I once compounded, and, as I thought, on a suitable occasion, administered to a melancholy lady. She assured me that they did her more good than any other prescription. Perhaps verses are not regarded as among the *desiderata* of the day, or as very potent in the spells which the doctor expels. Hold! have we not carminatives from "Carmen," a song, and do we not hear of even essences and elixirs acting as charms? I have almost found a precedent for the use of the canto-cure. Paris, in his Pharmacologia, will tell you of stranger ones. At all hazards, here are my three little powders:

When thy light heart is beating
Within a joyous breast,
And roseate hours are fleeting
To thee with Fortune's greeting,
Look up and do thy best.

When Fortune's smiles are failing,
And cares thy mind infest,
Oh, give no time to wailing;
'Tis weak and unavailing;
Look up and do thy best.

When sin thy peace hath riven
And marred thy spirit's rest,
Despair not! look to Heaven;
For thou may'st be forgiven.
Look up and do thy best.

Moral remedies are too much neglected. Often we are foiled in our attempts in curing the patient, because of the "*written* troubles of the brain" of which we are ignorant, and which had to be "*razed out*," before "poppy and mandragora" or any of the rest of the "drowsy syrups of the world" could call down upon the sufferer's eyelids

"Tired nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep."

Half the dyspepsias, and anorexias, and waterbrashes, gastralegias, and globi hysterici, are from moral influences. Who can eat after the shock of bad news? Who can masticate and insalivate, deglute and digest, chymify, chylify, absorb, circulate, depurate, and assimilate, under the fear of poverty, disgrace, death, and the Devil? A wound has to be very bad to kill the soldier whose standard is advancing to victory. "Man but a rush against Othello's breast, and he retires." I think I shall write a book mainly on Moral Medicine. It is a *desideratum*. Let me see. "Man, the lord of creation, the microcosm, occupying a position somewhere between brutes and angels, has need, in order to his well-being, of food, air, water, exercise, (physical, moral, and intellectual,) rest, sleep, and some other things. He needs, on the moral side, a good conscience, a fair reputation, passable hopes, and occasionally a homœopathic dose of fear—not to go further into psychology. Now it is the business of the physician to regulate all these things, upon which a man's well-being depends. If the patient is anemic and starving, let us give him food—not the flower of sulphur; if in a close room and gasping for breath, let us give him air—not arnica and arsenic; if thirsty, give

him drink: and we will get, besides our fee, the reward attached to the giving of a cup of cold water. Regulate the patient's exercise and rest and sleep; make yourself his confidant. If he is conscience-smitten, talk to him about Adam, and Abraham, and Jacob, and Noah, and David, all of whom sinned more or less, though in the main good men. 'Why, sir, do you expect to be better than all the saints? Be glad that you are no worse.' Does he fear that his friends are about forsaking him? Tell him of all the compliments you have heard paid him—that fine speeeh he made—that effective sermon he preached—that brilliant examination he stood. Talk of that successful trip to Council Bluffs, when he piloted the Genoa—how he saved the little girl that fell from the hurricane deck of the Flying Cloud. He not liked!—who had made five dollars a day by draying pig iron!—had worked on the Big Sewer!—had cleared ten acres of woodland in the forests of Kentucky, which was a 'marvel and show' to all the girls in the neighborhood! Inspire hope. 'The world is wide—it owes us a living—it is along lane that does not turn—even Jim Lane, with his 1000 men, will turn after a while—look at the windfalls—golden sprinkled Californias and Australias—and let the worst come, the best and greatest men have been poor.'"

Well, something like this will be a specimen of my promised *desideratum*. I shall have but few drugs: blood-letting and calomel for inflammation; iodine for the pseudo formations, as tumors, etc.; opium, quinine, and iron, for various well-known states. In the essential fevers I shall do little more than regulate the non-naturals—attend to inflammation which may supervene on the one hand, and to exhaustion come down on the other—attend to the *morale* and amuse the patient as best I may, whilst Nature thus aided cures the disease. — *St. Louis Med. and Surg. Jour.*

MISSOURI STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

We have received the third biennial report of Dr. T. R. H. Smith, Superintendent and Physician of our State Lunatic Asylum, located at Fulton, as submitted to the Legislature at its recent session. From which we learn, that at the date of the last report there were in the institution 84 patients, 43 males and 41 females.

During the last two years, ending November 27, 1856, there were admitted one hundred and eleven — sixty-three males and forty-eight females, making the whole number under treatment, two hundred and five. Of this number, there have been discharged seventy — forty-five males and twenty-five females.

Of those discharged, forty-one had recovered, four were improved, four stationary, three eloped and eighteen died.

Since the asylum was opened, three hundred and four patients have been admitted — one hundred and sixty-seven males and one hundred and thirty-seven females. Of this number, one hundred and sixty-eight were old cases, and one hundred and thirty-six recent. Under the judicious management of Dr. Smith, we have no doubt but that the institution will continue to flourish and prove a lasting blessing to the Commonwealth.—*St. Louis Med. and Surg. Jour.*

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LUNATIC ASYLUM, B. I.

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Assistant Physicians.—J. V. Lansing, M.D., R. L. Parsons, M.D.

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LITHOTOMY IN THE HORSE.

BY JOHN FIELD, M. R. C. V. S., LONDON.

Lithotomy, although now-a-days not perhaps a very rare operation in the horse, is still one so seldom brought to the notice of the veterinary surgeon, that I think an account of a case which has lately been under my care may not be uninteresting to your readers.

A through-bred bay gelding, which had been used as a hunter, the property of a gentleman, was recently admitted into the hospital. The symptoms, as described by the owner, were frequent staling, a gradual wasting away of flesh, and, after violent exercise in the hunting field, the passing of a quantity of blood with the urine. Upon an examination being made per rectum, the bladder having been previously emptied, a calculus about the size of a walnut, could be distinctly felt within the viscus. The owner was recommended not to incur the risk of an operation, if he could get a fair price for the horse; and he was accordingly offered for sale by public auction, but was bought in. It was then decided to preform lithotomy, and the horse having been prepared for the operation, was cast, and secured on his back in the usual way. The penis was then drawn forward with some little difficulty, and the staff was passed along the urethra up to the sub-anal portion of the canal, where it could be distinctly felt. It was then cut down upon, very little hemorrhage taking place, and the forceps being introduced into the bladder, the stone was immediately grasped, but unfortunately in attempting to draw it out it was crushed; however, the greater part being removed by the forceps, the remainder was easily washed away by means of a syringe and warm water. The removal of the whole of the calculus being effected, the external wound was brought together with two sutures, and the horse allowed to get up.

After the operation, some urine was passed through the wound for a few days, and subsequently considerable œdema came on of the sheath, but which was relieved by being repeatedly douched with cold water. About a fortnight after the operation, an abscess formed in the sheath; it was, however, not attended with any untoward consequences. Besides the continued use of cold water to the parts, the animal had occasional doses of Bal. Copaibæ given him. He continued, from the period of the evacuation of the abscess, to

improve in condition ; the wound in the urethra soon became prefectly healed, and the œdema of the sheath was likewise entirely removed, when he was discharged from the hospital. Under such favorable circumstances as these, I hope soon to have the pleasure of seeing his owner riding him again to the hounds.—*Veterinarian, London.*

COMMUNICATIONS.

[Communicated to the Medical World.]

CLERICAL HEALTH.*

NUMBER XIV. — BY WM. M. CORNELL, M. D.

THE PASSIONS.

Defined — Effect on the System — Love — Choice of a Wife — Importance of good health in a Wife — Paul a Widower—Sir James Mackintosh's Wife.

"T 'is the great art of life to manage well
The restless mind."

This motto is taken from Dr. Armstrong's "Art of Preserving Health." Armstrong was one of the most eminent physicians of his day, and though not renowned for *poetical* talents, yet he said, or sung many wholesome truths.

By "the passions," I mean to include everything, from the slightest emotion, up to those paroxysms of love, and rage which sometimes agitate the frame. These have been quaintly, but not inaptly termed "*fulmina perturbationem.*" Burton called them "the thunder and lightning of perturbation, which causeth such violent and speedy altercations in this our microcosm, and many times subverts the good estate and temperature of it." These various emotions are to the mind, what food and drink are to the body. They stimulate, they depress, they tranquillize, and they ruffle the soul. But, what is more to our present purpose, they produce similar effects upon the body. The vascular and nervous systems are perpetually under the influence of the emotions and passions. Witness the tremors and palpitations excited by the postman's rap, when we are expecting intelligence from absent friends involving matters of grave moment. See that shaking hand while breaking the seal of an important letter !

The effect of the emotions and passions upon the circulation was early observed. Witness the detection of Antiochus's passion for Stratonia, by the pulse. Let the sense of *shame* cross the sensitive imagination, and, in an instant, the capillaries of the cheek are gorged with blood, looking as though it would burst through the skin. Change the emotion to *fear;* and quick as thought, the lily usurps the rose,—the face is bloodless.

History abounds with instances where life and death have been in the power of the passions. Thus, we are told of "a Roman lady who fell suddenly dead of joy upon meeting her son, whom she supposed had fallen in one of the battles of Hannibal," and of a Jew, who came safely by night over a dangerous place: but, on viewing the perilous situation he was in, the next morning he fell down dead. A child has been known to die on seeing a corpse taken from a grave.

As clergymen are supposed to be, and, as they really should be, removed from the passions of fear, anger, hatred, jealousy, *et id omne genus*, which are called *dire;* and, as we do not wish to prescribe without a cause, we will pass them by, and take one for our consideration, which is lawful ; yea, even necessary for them to cherish. It is *love.* As a bishop *must* be the husband of one wife, and as every good man should *love* his wife, we say this is a passion which he *must* cherish.

Love is a cordial drop which Heaven has cast into the bitter cup of life, not excluded from that of the clergy, for both Peter and Paul (?) had wives: yet love, that sweetens our sorrows and doubles our joys, destroys, and ever has destroyed more victims than the conqueror's sword.

It has been said, (though we do not vouch for the truth of the assertion,) that "ministers are the greatest fools in love." Whether this be true or not, it must be granted that they often marry very unwisely, and one of the legitimate fruits of such indiscreet connections is often loss of health.

Often young men, designing to enter the ministry, during their early studies, allow themselves to become attached to a young lady, and attach her affections to them. Their minds are constantly expanding, and tastes continually changing; and, while this is the case with them, the minds of the young ladies remain nearly stationary. The consequence is, that when the young clergyman is about to enter upon the duties of his profession, he finds there is a vast difference between their intellectual culture. He is now introduced into society; perhaps settles in some popular

*Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1856, by WILLIAM M. CORNELL, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.

parish, and has a wide circle out of which to choose a companion. In these circumstances, he is strongly tempted to break off his early engagement. But this he cannot do with honor, to say nothing of religion. While he is thus strongly tempted to play upon the young lady what some have called, "a minister's trick," he must not allow himself to do it. If he does, he must expect bitter repentance. We knew a case of this kind. The engagement was broken off most dishonorably to the cloth. But the wife, which he afterwards chose, proved not only "a thorn in his flesh," but, also, like "a messenger of Satan," to fetter his soul. Better, far better, unless the contract can be dissolved "by mutual consent," make the best of a bad bargain.

Sometimes a young minister, after having kept himself aloof from female society till he enters upon his profession, then allows himself to fall in love with the first pretty face he meets, irrespective of her mental, moral, or physical qualifications to be the wife of "a Bishop." Perhaps, she makes no pretensions to piety. We have heard of an orthodox clergyman, who became attached to a young lady of a Unitarian family, residing in the same town in which he was settled. When he asked the consent of her father, he replied, "I should not think my daughter would make a good wife for a *pious* minister. She has been brought up in a *fashionable* way, and has been educated to attend parties, balls and theatres. It strikes me that these would not be suitable accomplishments for the wife of a very *pious divine*, and an example to the flock. They were, however, married.

Sometimes, she has not the health, or the constitution to fill the place, bear the trials and sustain the duties devolving upon the wife of a bishop. Now, however incumbent it be, for a clergyman to marry such a lady, after he has become engaged to her, it certainly does not savor of wisdom to make choice at the outset of a nursling. The minister generally has too hard a task, and quite too severe a warfare to attempt to carry a sick wife with him; we mean to *commence* the work with such an one. He had better allow such to be provided for by those who can better own houses, hire nurses, and fee doctors. But if her health fails *after* they are married, he is bound, by every sense of duty, to render her as comfortable as he can, and to bear his affliction with Christian fortitude.

Is it asked, What has this to do with clerical health? Let us see. Does it make no difference with his labors, trials and afflictions, if he has one who can "help" him bear them, or, one whose influence is always like a weight to drag him down? Suppose, for instance, he marries a debilitated, nervous, waspish woman, who has always had her own way in her father's house, and who expects and means to be the same in that of her husband, and in his parish. Would it not be likely to make some difference with his health, if, on her account, he found himself compelled to change his residence every year; and if, instead of "building her house," like Solomon's "wise woman," and managing her children and her domestic affairs properly, he was compelled to nurse the children and be his own housekeeper?

Socrates might choose Xantippe because she would learn him to exercise patience and the more rigid virtues, and Billy Gray, or a Girard might choose a feeble and indigent wife, and both, from good motives: the former, that he might be made better in spirit, and the two latter because they could better provide for such than others. But a clergyman had better demur in such a case, till he *becomes* a Socrates or a Girard.

If we wished to be facetious, we might give some specimens of imprudent clerical unions, but the subject is too serious, and we should never sport with human infirmity. "Passions are the elements of life;" not to be annihilated, but governed; and, if they get the reins, like Phœbus driving the chariot of the sun, they soon set the soul on fire and dig an early grave for the body.

Marriage was ordained of God, and instituted in Paradise, and the first miracle of Jesus was to do honor to a wedding. The celibate or bachelor, has been said to live like a fly in the heart of an apple, dwelling in perpetual sweetness, but sits alone, and dies in single desolation. Marriage is a school of virtue, and it is doubtful whether "a bishop" who has not "one wife," and who does not "govern his own house well," haviug his children in subjection," can govern the house of God, or be a fitting example to the flock of Christ.

It is clearly a scriptural duty for "a bishop" to marry. Many have erroneously supposed that the Apostle Paul intended to discountenance this idea, when he said, "It is good for man not to touch a woman;" and, also, when he says "to the unmarried, it is good for them if they abide even as I." But they do not consider that Paul, at the time he wrote this, was a widower. Ignatius states this fact, in his Epistle to Philadelphia, and Clemens says

the same in the third book of his Ecclesiastical History. Eusebius, also, mentions the same fact. As there is no command that a bishop should marry *twice*, and as Paul had once been married, he was at liberty afterwards to remain single.

If a clergyman selects a wife, who has the *pride* of *property*, or *birth* and *family*, or, who possesses *a temperament* very different from his own, she will be one among a thousand, if she does not render him unhappy; cause him frequent removals; and, eventually, destroy his usefulness and his health.

Happy the clergyman, who can say as did Sir James Mackintosh, of his deceased wife, "She was a woman, who by tender management of my weaknesses, gradually corrected the most vicious of them. She gently reclaimed me from dissipation,—to her, I owe whatever I am,—whatever I shall be."

FLOATING FACTS.

Suicides in Boston. — During the year 1856, there were 13 males and 5 females committed suicide, in Boston, in the following manner: by taking laudanum, 3 males, 3 females; by drowning, 2 males; by hanging, 5 males, 1 female; by shooting, 1 male; by taking arsenic, 1 male, 1 female; by jumping from window, 1 male. The cases of homicide during the year were 11 — 6 males and 5 females having been killed or murdered.

Sugar in Consumption. — A gentleman in Louisiana bought some consumptive negroes from a dealer in Norfolk, and placed them on his sugar plantation. They ate plentifully of the cane, but more especially of the young shoots. The slaves who had been thin, weak, and sickly, soon became strong, robust, and hearty, and in a short time all traces of the disease disappeared. The Argus learns that this planter has a standing order at Norfolk, for negroes who have the symptoms of consumption, and of course expects to get them at a reduced price. If northern consumptives are inclined to submit to the same treatment, they may possibly have essential relief, if not a perfect cure.

Malpractice. — In New York, Mr. Courtney sued Dr. Henderson, for damages done to his eyes. The defendant's counsel raised several points, but it is sufficient to state the second one — "That an error in judgment is not malpractice." The court held that to be good law when applied to a man skilled in anatomy, surgery, or physic, but that it had no application in this case; that the defendant, knowing nothing of anatomy, surgery, or physic, could have no judgment in the matter. The law contemplated a judgment founded upon skill and knowledge in these sciences. That man who would hold a diploma without any knowledge of these sciences, and under such false pretences obtain a patient, and commence tinkering with the most delicate of all organs, the eye, must be reckless indeed. An error in judgment of a man skilled in a particular calling is not malpractice, unless it is a gross error. A person attempting to practise in physic or surgery, without first having obtained a knowledge of such science, is liable for all the damage that is the result of his practice. The case was given to the jury, who returned a verdict of five hundred dollars for plaintiff.

Pitting in Small-pox. — Mr. Startin, the senior surgeon to the Gurney Hospital for diseases of the skin, has communicated to the *Medical Times* a plan, which he has adopted, for preventing pitting in small-pox, and which has always proved successful. The plan consists in applying the acetum cantharidis, or any vesicating fluid, by means of a camel-hair brush, to the apex of each pustule, on all the exposed surfaces of the body, until blistering is evidenced by the whiteness of the skin in the parts subjected to the application, when the fluid producing it is to be washed off with water or thin arrowroot gruel. The pain attending the application of the vesicating fluid is very slight and transient.

Vaccination among Mohammedans. — Although the great value of the operation is acknowledged by the Turks, Syrians, and indeed the faithful in most Mohammedan countries, vaccination cannot be performed without permission of a priest, and usually at a mosque, after prayers. In extremely fanatical regions, being fatalists, no precautions whatever are taken to escape small-pox, notwithstanding its awful fatality under the extraordinary treatment the patients receive at the hands of their native hakims. What is decreed to occur by Allah, cannot be averted by infidels. With the pious exclamation of Bismillah on their lips,—God is great,—they brave the danger and die of small pox when the molah refuses to grant permission to vaccinate.

Poisoning by House Paper. — Dr. Hinds, of Birmingham, England, chanced to select, for the adornment of his study, a particularly bright-tinted wall-paper, the pattern of which was confined to two shades of green. About two days after it had been applied, he first used the room in the evening, sitting there and reading by a gas-light. While thus engaged, he was seized with severe depression, nausea, abdominal pain and prostration. The same chain of symptoms ensued on every subsequent evening when he occupied the room. This led to an inquiry into the cause. He scraped off a little of the bright coloring matter from his green paper, and, by sublimation, produced abundant crystals of arsenious acid. The paper was colored with arsenite of copper (Scheele's green.) The use of this pigment to color wall papers has already proved injurious in previous cases. In one, a child sucked some strips of paper thus colored, and narrowly escaped with life.

Snakebites in India. — The number of deaths arising from snakebites, in the various zillahs and towns subordinate to the Bombay presidency, has led to the offer of a reward for their destruction. The people, encouraged by the reward offered, are occupying themselves most actively in destroying these reptiles. Each day nearly 300 dead snakes are brought in. Mr. Bettington saw an immense number of every description. The most common of all is one called the "foorsa." The civil surgeon of Rutnagherry knows no remedy for the poison of this deadly reptile. Ammonia and other stimulants, if applied in time, are effective antidotes to the poison of the cobra and some other snakes, but are of no avail against the poison of the foorsa. The poison does not act on the nervous system, like that of the cobra, but on the blood alone, which becomes corrupted in a peculiar manner.

Conscientious Apothecary. — A young man, who had served his apprenticeship to a chemist, and was an accurate and skilful dispenser, mistook half-an-ounce for an ounce, in a very indistinctly written prescription, and on the label directed two table-spoonfuls (instead of one) to be taken for a dose. The patient, a child, was suffering from a complication of organic disease, and was in a hopeless state, but several doses of medicine were taken without bad effect. The mistake was discovered about the time that the child died, and as it transpired that the medicine contained prussic acid, an inquest was held. From the evidence it appeared that the post mortem examination disclosed a state of disease fully sufficient to account for death from natural causes, and that the medicine, although given in a larger dose than was intended, was not likely to do any mischief. The prescription was handed to several competent persons; some of whom read the quantity ℥ ss., while others thought it looked more like ℥ j. Little or no censure was passed upon the young man who dispensed the prescription, but the circumstance made such an impression on his mind, that he was in a constant state of nervous apprehension at the liability to such disasters, on which account he soon afterwards abandoned pharmacy.

Wild Men of Sumatra.—In the dark forests fringing the Lakatan, Batang Lekoh, Rawas Ula, and some others, tributory to the river Moosa, between the territory of Palembong and Jambee, a race of wild men exist, who are strong, symmetrically formed, and capable of enduring incredible hardships. Some of them wear strips of bark round the loins; but ordinarily they are entirely naked. By daubing themselves with mud and gum from trees, they protect themselves against the bites and stings of insects. The males have long shaggy beards, and the bodies of both sexes are partially covered with hair. They subsist on berries, wild fruits, fish and several varieties of reptiles, without cooking. They have dogs of a peculiar breed, large, ferocious and vigilant, who act as sentinels against the stealthy approach of tigers and other wild beasts, and, more dreaded than all, the Malays, who hunt them for slaves.

Language of Animals. — No philosopher questions the ability of animals to convey their thoughts, meaning and intentions to each other. Do migrating birds congregate from an impulse of instinct, and hover about a particular locality week after week, till the whole are collected together, before commencing their annual journey? How happens it that one bird takes command of the caravan? Is it by general consent, from an instinctive knowledge of his capacity or superior experience? Wild horses obey a stallion, who is a general of the forces. He exercises his command—bringing to a line; wheels them by sections, and dismisses them by a word they certainly understand. At pleasure they are again mustered, and move according to his supreme will. Is there a language here?

Hospital of Minto.—In Capt. Gibson's volume, called the *Prison of Weltevreden*, is a pleasant account of a hospital, in the Dutch East India possessions. The doctor took the captain, after dinner, to the sick wards, where there were about forty patients—half of whom were Chinese and the remainder Malays and natives of the archipelago, including a few soldiers. The quiet and submissiveness of the indigenous inmates, contrasted strangely with the groans and restlessness of the Dutchmen. The colored races submit to a greater amount of physical suffering, according to Captain Gibson, than the whites. He saw a Malay woman who had been shockingly mutilated with a hatchet. One blow was on the face, which first struck the cheek, then glancing down the jaw and slicing off a portion of her face; and while attempting to ward off other blows, she was struck between the fingers of the right hand, which split open her hand to her wrist. With not much more than a week's care, the bandages being kept wet with pure water, she had a good prospect of recovery. The surgeon assured him that wounds inflicted on the natives, which would have been fatal to Europeans, were not difficult of cure. It was his opinion that the simple diet of the Javanese and Malays, principally rice, birds and fish, gave them this gratifying advantage in contending with terrible wounds.

We recollect of hearing Dr. Peter Parker, the great Amrican surgeon at Canton, now the minister resident from this government, say that the Chinese had no more sensibility than oysters, which was the reason he assigned for bearing the most trying surgical operations with a composure altogether surprising, but which gave them a chance of recovery far superior to civilized Christian patients.

Red Leeches.—There abounds in the morasses and jungles on the borders of the rivers in the East Indian Archipelago, a leech, about two-thirds of an inch in length, that has the power of leaping to its prey, where it fastens with a tenacity, far beyond the true medicinal blood-sucker. When compelled to let go their hold, the blood flows very freely from the puncture. To animals and men venturing into their appropriate realm, they are a source of terrible annoyance.

New Expedition.—Doctor Bowen Dorrance, of Philadelphia, received a complimentary dinner on Tuesday, upon the occason of his starting for New Orleans, where he is to select fifty able-bodied men, with constitutions of such character and acclimation as will enable them to withstand the trying climate of the Eastern coast of Africa. Dr. Dorrance has been selected by the Russian government as the chief of an expedition now being fitted out by the Emperor to explore the country lying contiguous to Madagascar, to examine more particularly into the botanical character and habitat of the *gymnum spermum candialis*, a species of *cactus* indigenous to these parts, which, it is supposed, will supersede the use of hemp in the manufacture of rope. This discovery was made, a few years since, by the brother of the Baron Menyloff, Chief of the Bureau of Manufacture of Russia. This is another instance of the sagacity of a foreign government, in selecting a physician to take charge of a great enterprise.

Unusual Phenomenon.—Lieut. Habeasham, in his recently published work, entitled "My Last Cruise," notices a curious phenomenon, which was seen at sea. It was a brilliant meteor, which although visible for not more than a second, presented a most perfect representation of the human eye. He says: "We distinctly saw it contract and dilate twice during that limited period, immediately after which, the lids, as it were, closed and shut it from our view."

Sterility.—The N. O. Medical News reports a case in which a negro woman aged 30 years, and who had been married for seventeen years without becoming pregnant, subsequently conceived, after applying a new-born infant for four days to her nipples, and was delivered of a fine, full-termed female child. This may serve as a hint to anxious wives and disappointed husbands.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Dr. Edward Hitchcock, of Amherst, Mass., has been appointed to complete the geological survey of Vermont.

A hotel keeper in a flourishing city advertises that he has engaged Dr. —— to be the caterer of the house, and from his known character, he hopes to secure a corresponding class of patrons. Alas, poor Yoric!

Dr. Munde's institution, at Florence, Northampton, Mass., is in admirable condition for the reception of invalids, with ample accommodations for the annually increasing numbers.

Dr. Jean Baptiste Theophile Dorion, a gentleman of standing and position in society, and in possession of upwards of £50,000, has been convicted at Montreal of stealing silver spoons, two promissory notes of £100, a gold-headed cane, and six books, from Dr. Leveve Donan, whom he attended in his last illness. The alleged theft took place on the 24th of June, 1851, nearly six years ago, and the chief witnesses were two brothers of the prisoner, who saw the goods taken. The accused said that the charge was the result of a conspiracy to ruin him, but the jury, after an absence of five minutes, found him guilty. When the verdict was announced the prisoner staggered in the dock, and was ashy pale.

The Board of Health of Washington have arrived at the conclusion that the sickness at the National Hotel was caused by poisonous miasm, generated in the sewers, cesspools, and sinks about the establishment. The hotel is now closed. Over one thousand people are estimated already to have had their health seriously injured at this hotel since the first of March. It is singular that the cases of those who have died, have, upon a *post mortem* examination, been thought to indicate the presence of arsenic.

The Druggists' Circular is extensively patronized, and deserves to be, on account of the talent, good judgment, and tact with which it is managed. It espouses no quarrels, and practises upon the precept, that kind words secure more friends than vindictive sentiments.

At St. Joseph's, the Medical Society of Missouri held its annual meeting on Tuesday last.

The late Dr. Kane bequeathed the sum of $5000 to his brother, Robt. P. Kane, and the rest of his estate to such one or more of his family, for such estate, and on such limitation as Hon. John K. Kane (whether to take effect during his lifetime or after his decease) may appoint. In default of such direction, the income of the estate to go to his father, and after his decease to his mother, and after the decease of both, to his sisters and brothers.

Sporadic cases of scarlet fever are occasionally appearing at points where the malady has not been recognized before the present season.

Successful treatment of erysipelas by the tincture of muriate of iron, is reported. An emetic is first recommended, to be followed by two drops of the muriate every two hours.

Dr. Cleveland's valuable prelections on the question, "*Are Mercurials anti-Syphilitic?* have come abroad from Cincinnati, in a neat octavo pamphlet, of thirty pages.

Glycerine is taking an important place in the Materia Medica as well as the arts. It is a principal ingredient in preparations for cutaneous diseases, and for the toilet, in soaps, cosmetics, &c. The forms in which the article is served up are surprisingly numerous.

More universal praise seems never to have been bestowed upon a book, than has been meted out to Dr. Draper's Physiology. What a pity new medical works of such value are not on sale in Boston. If at any subsequent time copies are to be had here, it would give us pleasure to direct those who are so frequently asking, by letter and otherwise, where this or that book can be purchased, referred to in bibliographical notices.

Intelligence from Seville, announces that the small-pox is making great ravages in that city, and the number of deaths from it daily exceeds that in time past of the victims to the cholera.

Small-pox is still extending its fearful ravages in the interior of several States. Why could there not be a systematic simultaneous effort all over the United States, to secure the entire population against its propagation? The medical profession might accomplish it, and thus actually exterminate one of the most dreadful diseases to which human beings are incident.

One of the best and most deserving medical periodicals is the St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal. It is not so opinionated as to exclude a communication because it does not coincide, in length, breadth, and weight, with the opinions of its editors. Such progressive generosity meets with a cordial support. The age is democratic in matters medical.

Dr. Hall's Journal has an instructive paragraph on the value of civility. It is surprising to discover, by an interesting illustration, what may be achieved by the mightiest yet most economical of all agencies—pleasant, agreeable manners. The gruff, cold, haughty, nonchalance of some medical aspirants, is the sole reason why they do not have the position, influence, and fortune, to which they aspire. Insects may fall into vinegar, but acids never attract them.

Lager-beer drinking is becoming a vice that will alarm the temperance advocates. Former guzzling was but a dew-drop compared with the quarts some individuals consume in a single day, after their taste has been cultivated. If pure hops were used in the manufacture, the injury to health would be less, and the craving for a pot less morbid.

Dr. Neill Arnot the celebrated writer on physics, has been elected a member of the Royal Society in his old age, when the honor comes too late either to gratify the natural pride of an ambitious man, or promote his interest in society. It is the policy of some conservative associations never to elect associates till their candidate has a fame which will add to the importance of the association by inserting him in the catalogue.

Dr. Leewe very recently entertained the Numismatical Society with a dissertation on a gold coin struck by Sultan Melick Dhaher Rokn-eddin-Bibers,—very instructive to those who never heard of his ancient Highness, and consequently applauded by those who echo the sentiments of their superiors.

Dr. Bakie, the bold African explorer, has presented to the Zoological Society of London, the skull of a manatus, from western Africa, —a rare acquisition for any cabinet. His narrative of the manner in which it came into his possession, equals fiction in point of excitement.

A book has appeared abroad in defence of tobacco. This poor, abused, misrepresented solace of unnumbered millions, has found a friend at court. If it sells well, there is no calculating the effect it will have in checking the profitable incomes of anti tobacco agents,—beginning to be almost as productive in England as in some parts of this country.

Homœopathy had a smart rap over the knuckles, a little while since, in one of the foreign journals. The inference is that its increasing influence excites apprehension. Only get up a persecution and the institution is sure to flourish.

Dr. Harnier, of Frankfort, has been elected a burgomaster of the city,—which is something like being an alderman,—with the privilege of laboring for nothing, and occasionally feasting at the expense of the taxpayers.

Dr. Holland is to be the editor of the Springfield Republican, says an exchange paper. He is a strong writer.

If the Sandwich Islanders, under the auspices of the king, organize a medical school, in connection with the medical association already formed, the natives will be provided with professional attendants of their own blood and language. So universally diffused is the taint of syphilis, that unless some assistance is provided for extending medical relief to all the remote hamlets, and in all the islands, the native population must inevitably become extinct at no very remote period.

A new northern medical infirmary is about being organized in Philadelphia, of which James Bryan, M. D., is president, associated with a board of medical gentlemen who take upon themselves the management of distinct branches of professional duties.

A story is travelling the medical rounds, that a clergyman was engaged to deliver a valedictory discourse, as a closing public exercise, at one of the medical schools of New York, at the close of the late term. But when the students learned that the reverend speaker was favorably inclined to the doctrines of homœopathy, an indignation meeting was held, and they refused to hear him.

Another embryotic medical school, with the modest title of a preparatory institution, has been proposed in New York, under the control of Drs. Holcomb, Budd and Bronson. If there were as many courses of medical lectures delivered annually, in that city, as in Philadelphia, New York would have the medical ascendancy.

Small-pox is prevailing extensively in Texas, and the alarm of its approaching destructiveness is beginning to excite apprehension at Galveston.

Dr. Hullihan, whose death occurred lately at Wheeling, Virginia, was an eminent surgeon. He had extensive celebrity in reference to hair-lip operations. A memoir by him, some years since, was well received. A biographical sketch of his life should be furnished for publication.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.

A book for the medical profession is actually ready for patronage,—and the publishers, for their boldness in not permitting it to be edited by an American Somebody, are deserving of a tea-service of plate. *The Physiological Anatomy and the Physiology of Man*, by Robert Bently Todd, M. D., of King's College, London, and William Hovman, F. R. S., has been re-published by Messrs. Blanchard & Lea, Philadelphia. Should copies be on sale in Boston, the fact will be noticed. It is quite difficult to procure the ordinary professional works which emanate from the presses of that city, as formerly. It would be greatly for the interest of publishing houses in that direction, to place their books in New England on sale. There are readers here, as in other civilized countries. Even a nomadic pedler would be better than no agent.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, APRIL 15, 1857.

PHYSICIANS AND THEIR PATIENTS.—One of the leading propositions in the Hindu regulations worthy of being observed every where, in visiting the sick, which was published last week, positively declares that "a person rejecting a Vaidya, or physician, will be punished in hell; whereas, when a vaidya is employed, the patient will go to heaven, even should he not be able to see the sacred Ganges in his dying moments." With these explicit declarations ringing in their ears, no sick man or woman would hazard their future condition, when certain of a Brahminical paradise by calling for medical advice. But, so deplorably low is the knowledge of medicine among the native practitioners of the East Indies, that in the instinctive desire to secure life and heaven, at one and the same time, they generally die martyrs to the most absurd system of practice known in the annals of science.

A Hindu would doubtless express both surprise and horror on becoming acquainted with the slight degree of confidence patients sometimes entertain in regard to the capacity and skill of their medical attendants in Christian countries. And there cannot be a doubt respecting the unfortunate manner in which a malady may gain the ascendancy, on account of the distrust, the dislike and repugnance that a patient may indulge in towards his physician.

There are instances in which this feeling becomes so strongly marked, that a dismissal follows, and another is called, in whose judgment, learning and experience, more reliance is placed. Nothfng is more common than changing physicians in the midst of an active disease, with an expectation that a perfect change of treatment is to follow as a matter of course. This is all wrong, and extremely prejudicial.

Again, there are legions of meddling, mischief-making friends, who to express their interest and deep sympathy for the afflicted individual, become exceedingly active agents in trumpeting the celebrity of doctor Somebody, who should be summoned at once, either as principal or in consultation.

When regularly educated physicians are thus turned off or called in,—there can be no essential difference in the medication, as both have been taught alike, and the remedies either might prescribe, would be nearly the same. It is like creating a new ministry by the sovereign. The people are clamorous for a change. They are indulged,—but government pursues the same line of policy,—men are changed, but measures rarely.

Changing political agents is less disastrous for a country than changing physicians, when a patient is laboring under acute disease. If, therefore, it were possible to impress it on the minds of the sick that their safety, under ordinary circumstances, is better secured under the medical guidance of the one with whom they first advised, as firmly as the Hindu believes in the penalty of neglecting to ask assistance from a vaidya, recoveries from some of the fevers, particularly, might by expected, where the mortality is to some extent chargeable to the ardent ambition of a second physician to excel his predecessor.

Chronic complaints, stereotyped ulcers, and the whole category of human infirmities, are the aliments on which quackery subsists. Because miracles cannot be wrought, and an honorable practitioner scorns to promise cures that he is not certain of performing, those unprincipled adventurers who raise expectations not to be realized, and unhesitatingly declare they can do what their superiors cannot accomplish, will always have employment; but they rarely engage with diseases rapid and turbulent in their course. And it is in the treatment of those where order is all-important, and the safety of a precious life is at stake, that patients should obey their physician cheerfully, and gossips, kind-hearted mischief-makers and suggesting old women, with their new herb-drinks, should be peremptorily excluded from the sick-room.

An extensive and very profitable branch of practice has been inaugurated in the large towns and cities, which, when candidly analyzed, is open to severe criticism. It is the profession of being a medical counsellor. Admitting there is safety in a multidude of counsellors, according to the Jewish proverb, the principle is not applicable to the extent we are popularly taught to believe, by multiplying medical attendants in the sick-room. This, however, is to be considered and discussed in another form, hereafter; and in closing these observations,—let physicians remember they have rights to be protected as well as their patients. Mutual confidence and respect enhance the prospect of restoration to health for one, while it encourages and enlarges the sphere of usefulness for the other.

MEDICAL MEN AND MEDICAL MINDS.—A communication has appeared in the St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal, headed *cogitation and vaticinations*, which strikes home forcibly, and in a pleasant vein of wit ridicules the modern literature of medicine. Besides being copied into quite astute, solemn journals, where heaviness passes for profound thought, it is really rousing from mental torpidity, many who are capable of infusing a vigor into the medical mind of the country.

Were a premium offered for specimens of originality in the coming-along volumes on surgery, practice of medicine, midwifery, &c., is it probable that a committee of well-read, intelligent professional gentlemen could, with clear consciences, make an award? The

dentists are constantly making improvements. Their operations are improving, their manipulations are undergoing modifications, and their profession is not embarrassed by those obstinate, self-willed, self-constituted censors on their associates, who, like quarrelsome dogs over a bone, will neither gnaw it themselves, or allow others to have a taste. Their harmony has given character to their writing. No periodicals are higher toned, possess more originality, or command the homage of respect so generally. This unity of action has secured to the American dentists a command over the world, and their treatises, their opinions, their beautiful handiwork, rivaling Nature herself, are held up to admiratiun over Europe, and in short, American dental authors are universal authority.

Now examine the other side of the canvas. With an array of cultivated intellect,—scarcely paralleled, and competent to influence by their powers of logic, their facts and their learning, any class of minds,—the medical profession of the United States has singularly failed to inspire confidence out of their own ranks. Not by individual overts acts, or neglect of the performance of professional duties, but by a lack of concert growing out of the ceaseless strife of some few, to crush and control the many of the same household.

This has led to curious historical disruptions, and the development of ridiculous theories, for the sake of an apology for taking a departure from the common fold. Degeneracy was the result in some directions. New schools springing up where they were not needed, and offering inducements to students to matriculate with them on favorable terms, — which usually means at less cost than formerly,—has really given the public to understand that medical men cannot agree among themselves; that they have no abiding scientific principles, and hence quackery has reared its hydra head, and thrives most marvellously.

The medical mind of this country is equal to all the demands made upon it. Instead of indulging in vituperative criticisms on some body they dislike, and injuring the reputation and jeopardizing the honor and dignity of the true medical men of the country by small talk and smaller acts of neighborhood misunderstandings, let each one exert himself in the line of his particular professional taste, in the production of original works. There are facts enough and to spare, for building up a national medical literature of great importance and of immense value.

But frittering away life in notes and comments on the originalities of transatlantic authors, adds nothing to the professional glory of ourselves. The sooner that weakness is frowned down, the happier it will be for the reputation of medical men and the medical mind of the United States.

MARRIAGES.

At Magorban, Ireland, James Donaldson, M. D., of the East India Company Service, to Miss A. C. Tennant.

DEATHS.

At Marlow, Ireland, St. John Galway, M. D.

At Ardmore, Ireland, Mrs. Alicia, wife of R. Sargent, M. D.

At Fayetteville, North Carolina, Dr. B. Robinson, 84,—who was regarded with great respect for his character and professional worth.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 4.

Unknown female child 1 day, Hannah Sargent 9 days, Thos. Collins 3 do., Elizabeth Sheehan 7 do., Daniel Driscoll 12 do., John D. Pierce 2 yrs., Jeanie Peters 7 do., James Curran 75 do., Mary Han 23 do., Elizabeth Kiley 3 do., Ann Foster 42 do., Ellen Barry 21 do., Sarah L. Northey 20 do., Letitia Campbell 4 do., Anna McLean 26 do., Rosanna Carroll 25 do., James Silk 12 do., Sarah Doherty 21 do., Vintara Bernard 30 do., Rebecca Osborn 74 do., Patrick McLaughlin 50 do., Hezekiah Earl 73 do., Thos. Clifford 31 do., Deborah J. Briggs 29 do., Statira D. Goff 31 do., Andrew O'Flaherty 2 do., James E. Gorman 2 do., Sarah N. Wight 37 do., Emeline J. Saunders 3 do., Margaret Kells 74 do., Wm. R. Ingram, 15 do., Mrs. A. M. Barnes 31 do., Sarah Barry 75 do., Susan Deering 27 days, John Doherty 2 do., Patrick Burns 3 mos., Margaret E. Kelly 6 do., Thomas Quigley 10 do., Henry McGuigan 18 do., Bartholomew Maloney 12 do., Otto Deibner 2 do., Margaret Conley 3 do., Catharine A. Uart 3 do., Joseph Prendergast 26 do., James F. Mahoney 3 do., Emma Leonard 2 do., Mary Ann Malkearns 7 do., Michael Lalor, 45 do., Mary E. O'Brien 2 do., Matthias B. Sawyer 68 do., John C. Ruhl 7 mos., Cornelius Magner 6 do., Mary F. Gardner 6 do., Geo. Hobbs 1 do., Abi Cowdin 79 years, Sarae J. Ferguson 18 do., Cyrus B. Giles 17 do., Rosanda Houghton 39 do., Frederica Habertstroh 4 do., Mary Bell 75 do., Michael Moran 9 do., Mary Leonard 40, Michael McAloon 6 do., Timothy O'Connell 37 do., Mary A. Hinds 60 do., James Daggett 25 years, Mary Regan 22 do., Sarah F. Dean 25 do., Elizabeth W. Capen 8 do., Benjamin Brazer 54 do., Ellen McCue 42 do., Daniel P. Donovan 1 mo., unknown male child 1 day.

Diseases.—Accident 2, consumption 16, convulsions 2, dysentery 2, dropsy 3, dropsy in head 3, infantile diseases 3, scarlet fever 14, intemperance 2, inflammation of lungs 2, marasmus 3, teething 2, other diseases 1 each, 19. Total 73. Males 33, females 40. 52 were born in United States, 18 in Ireland, and 3 in other foreign places.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE

MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME II. APRIL 22, 1857. NUMBER 4.

SOUTHERN MEDICAL SENTIMENTS.

At a semi-annual meeting of the East Tennesee Medical Society, Samuel Pride, M. D., of Maryville, delivered an address, which has appeared in that excellent periodical, the Southern Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences.

As the whole article, abounding in a fine train of philosphical views in regard to the true sentiments which should animate medical practitioners, could not be republished in this connection, such parts have been selected as best exhibit the author's reasonings. He is certainly in advance of those who in their zeal to sustain the dignity of the profession, sometimes egregiously mistake individual opinions and their own despotic aspirations, for the true mode of advancing the high claims of legitimate medical science. Dr. Pride's liberality and kindness, universally adopted, would do more towards the suppression of quackery, than a hundred years of legislation.

There are some who seem so totally absorbed by a single idea, that it might be inferred that they regarded all forms or modifications of disease as predicable for their origin, upon some one specific locality of the body, or that, to some one point alone should attention be directed, to ascertain the precise nature of disease. A gentleman of my acquaintance, of justly respectable standing in the profession, of considerable advancement in observation and experience, and commanding a pretty extensive and deserved range of practice was so captivated with this idea that he became proverbial in his practice among females, for subjecting his patients to the scrutiny of pervaginam explorations in all forms of disease, as best furnishing the means of a just pathognomonic diagnosis. Thus he was often known to subject them to such inquisition, when no clue existed by which to trace the disease to that organ, or any of its appendages. Once in his absence I was called to visit a young lady patient of his in the closing stages of phthisis pulmonalis, and who actually died shortly afterwards. On entering upon inquiries as to her situation, she informed me she was suffering with prolapsus uteri, and desired me to replace it, stating that the Dr. had invariably done so with certainty and success. I intimated my incredulity to the fact, and if it was so, the proposed manipulation could answer no profitable purpose. She persisted in the request, and to satisfy her mind and to ascertain the ground for so singular a procedure, I complied with her wish. The result was as anticipated. The organ was in situ, and healthy and natural in all its relations. Yet she expressed a sense of relief from the operation; the result, as I was fully satisfied, of the strong impressions made upon her mind by the representations of her physician.

In my intercourse with obstetrical practice, I have often been amused, and surprised, and vexed at the revelations made to me as to the extraordinary skill of a prominent neighboring physician, in rectifying mal-positions of the fetus, in utero, or in *unravelling* a tangled umbilicus, or disincumbering the child from its dangerous coils, weeks before labor was expected to take place, and thereby saving the patient or her offspring from hazardous casualties, at the period of parturition. One lady, feeling indisposed near her "expected time," called him in—he bled her—next day he turned the child, labor not having yet commenced, and the day following she had an easy and comfortable delivery. That gentleman is justly regarded as a popular and successful practitioner in this, as also in other branches of the profession.

The science of medicine has not yet arrived at that perfection as to command universal confidence, in the accuracy and stability of its principles, or reliance upon its infallibility.—

So far from this being the case, its teachers and expounders are not agreed as to what should be regarded as the well-ascertained and fixed principle governing the practice. It does not speak a language that is every where significant of a well-understood conventional consent. So strikingly true is this, that an eminent physician has said, "that those physicians have generally become the most eminent, who have soonest emancipated themselves from the tyranny of the schools of physic." The humiliating fact may be repeated by most of us, that "daily evidence convinces us of our ignorance of the seats of disease, and causes us to blush at our own prescriptions." "What mischief have we not done under the belief of false facts and false theories;" and by this means, it has been asserted that we have assisted in multiplying disease; we have done more, we have increased their mortality. Then it cannot be wondered, that, with all our boasted superiority of learning and observation, the masses are somewhat incredulous as to the infallibility of our science or certainty of our prescriptions, and that they should consequently be more readily lured by the pompous announcements and fulsome assertion of the empiric, who constantly panders to their weakness and credulity by his "innocent vegetable" nostrums, supported by the countless number and variety of the certificates of his patients. As in the State, all forms of religious opinion is rightfully tolerated, so in medicine, let prudence of thought be modestly and submissively submitted to, with no other restraints than the force of enlightened reason.

The scheme of ignoring quackery by legal restrictions has at various periods agitated this country, and in the European States. In several of the states of both countries, laws have been passed for this purpose; but as yet no practical good has resulted. These laws are disregarded, and lie as a dead letter upon the statute books, and the offenders go unwhipt of justice; while the mischief accumulates.—Neither does the advancement of an enlightened public sentiment, seem capable of successfully suppressing the evil. What then should be done in the premises, is a question often mooted? Let it alone with the corrections that the common law affords for the punishment of gross mal-practice as in other cases of misdemeanor. I remember some years since, and I had hoped to refer more directly to the paper, reading an article in a medical journal on this subject, drawn up with great force, by a committee of the ablest medical men of the country, raised by order of the British Parliament, in which they elaborately argued the question as to the utility of legal interposition. The conclusion to which they arrived was adverse to the proposed remedy, conceiving it best to leave the whole matter to the control of enlightened public sentiment—except so far as it might be met and counteracted by the increased scientific acquirements and practical skill of the medical men of the country; and further, they thought that the competition, if afforded, would operate as an incentive to the industrious and enterprising portion of the profession, and serve as a successful impediment to the incompetent and lazy drones who were mere hangers-on in the faculty. And, again, it was further argued that the public had rights in relation to the matter worthy of respectful consideration—that every man had the inviolable right to be his own judge as to who should exercise the duties of physician, and that as it was a correct principle in morals, that the laborer was worthy of his hire, that therefore it would be palpable injustice to place it out of the power of the quack, though mischief might be the result of his temerity and ignorance, and to enforce his title to a just remuneration for his services.

Liberty of thought and freedom of action is a principle innate in the human mind, and will not suffer restraint for slight considerations, and their exercise is as necessary in medicine as in religion or morals. The skeptic or infidel would justly regard it as an unreasonable and unwarrantable exercise of oppression, to be compelled by the laws of the state, to adopt the opinions and conform to the actions of any dominant sect, although their claims might rest upon a basis of great superiority in intelligence, literature and didactic information and argument; notwithstanding the object to be attained aspires to a consummation of infinitely more importance than the mere health and preservation of the physical man.

Then, finally, by way of brief inference, I will insist that if the medical profession shall ever fulfil its destiny by placing itself where its legitimate purposes should lead, an important duty devolves upon its individual members.

They should not act the silly part of the bear in Æsop's fable, that cried to Jupiter for help, when he had the remedy at hand.

We should become less consorious and more liberal in our opinions, and more confidential and social in the intercourse we may exhibit to our professional rivals, imitating the benevolence of a Boerhave, the magnanimity and

generosity of a Mead, and the industry and energy of a Sydenham, combined with the mild urbanity of the gentleman. Then, as an organization for purposes of public benefit, let me suggest that we should in a laudable and public-spirited manner endeavor to wield such an influence over public sentiment as will in the end gently and unostentatiously and meritoriously bear down all factious opposing obstacles to free inquiry, fair competition and a more liberal policy in tolerating anatomical and physiological investigation.

CODEINE. CODEIA.

Physiologically and Therapeutically Considered.

BY E. E. MARCY, M. D.

This alkaloid was discovered in 1832, by Robiquet. Hitherto it has been but little employed in medicine, on account of its expensiveness. But even from the limited knowledge we possess with regard to its physiological action, we are justified in concluding that it will ultimately take a high rank among the medical vegetable alkaloids.

Codeine may be prepared as follows:

After Morphia, Narcotine, &c., have been precipitated by Ammonia, during the manufacture of these substances, the remaining liquor, which contains Codeine, is evaporated to dryness and digested in a solution of Potash. A crystalline substance remains undissolved, which is to be washed in water, and then dissolved in boiling ether, from which the Codeine separates in colorless prismatic crystals, (by spontaneous evaporation,) which contain 2 Aq.

It is a white crystalline solid, fuses at 300 deg., is slightly soluble in cold, and still more so in boiling water, and has an alkaline reaction.

Its chemical reactions differ materially from those of Morphia.

Codeine possesses many of the better properties of Morphia, without giving rise to the unpleasant consequences of the latter, in the form of constipation, headache, gastric derangement, somnolency, &c.

For the few facts heretofore communicated with regard to its physiological and therapeutic action, we are indebted to the researches of Magendie, Kenkul, Barbier, Berthé, Gregory, and Martin Solon.

A majority of the experiments of these gentlemen were made upon rabbits and dogs, and of course all inferences respecting its specific action, derived from these sources, must be received with great caution. But, we have many data derived from personal experiments, and from reliable provers, and a number of observations by Magendie, Gregory and Solon, upon the human subject, from which many valuable facts, both physiological and therapeutical may be condensed. The purpose of this brief communication is to bring together these observations, and to urge upon homœopathic practitioners the importance of still further testing this valuable alkaloid, upon the healthy and upon the sick. We have often appealed to the profession in this manner before, and it is a matter of deep regret that our appeals have remained for the most part unheeded. Through indifference, indolence and a want of proper benevolence for suffering humanity, the great mass of medical men leave the work, the drudgery, and the inconveniences of medical science to the few, who are obliged to toil for their benefit, as well as for the advancement of our art. This ought not to be. Every one should contribute something to the common stock of knowledge. Every one should occasionally *prove* a new remedy, or contribute new therapeutical facts of value. We beg you, therefore, gentlemen of the homœopathic school, to shake off this indifference and indolence, and bestir yourselves in the cause of science. The chemist is constantly presenting us with new and potent drugs, and it is of great moment that our school should promptly become acquainted with their pathogenetic and therapeutical properties. This can only be accomplished by industry, energy, and a little disinterested benevolence, on the part of every disciple of Hahnemann.

Codeine operates specifically upon the cerebellum and the medulla-oblongata. Barbier asserts that it acts specifically upon the ganglionic nerves; but adopting the recent hypothesis of Marshall Hall, that the true spinal-marrow is in reality the true great sympathetic, while the ganglionic systems are its branches, we infer that the cerebellum, and spinal-marrow are the parts particularly impressed by this drug. It is a powerful excitant, and causes convulsions of the limbs and of the muscles of the neck.

It accelerates the circulation and respiration, acts specifically upon the urinary organs, and induces a calm and refreshing sleep, with

out being followed by headache, nausea, sleeplessness, constipation and nervousness. The sleep which follows the use of Codeine is far more agreeable and refreshing than that produced by Morphia and its salts. The Codeine sleep is often accompanied by dreams; but they are of the most pleasant and exhilarating character. This property of inducing sleep, without disturbing any of the functions of the economy, must render this substance highly valuable in many cases. The slight exhilarating effect which is often experienced while under its influence is not generally followed by any reaction of a depressing nature; but every function remains unaffected, if we except a slight diminution of appetite.

With regard to the influence of Codeine upon perspiration and circulation, we have in several instances observed an augmentation of these functions for an hour or two after its administration in large doses, succeeded by a corresponding depression, which has lasted from six to ten hours.

When brought into contact with the mucous lining of the mouth, throat, stomach, or other parts, in its concentrated form, it produces inflammation. Yet in the hands of M. Barbier of Amiens, it has cured gastralgia, chronic gastritis and abdominal neuralgia, when administered in the form of a syrup.

"On administering," remarks M. Barbier, "Syrup of Codeine at intervals of one or two hours, in doses of two teaspoonsful, which is equivalent to five centigrammes of the alkaloid, to several persons affected with chronic gastritis, and neuralgia of the stomach and abdomen, the seat of which, according to this gentleman, is in the nervous plexus of the great sympathetic, and is dependent upon a morbid condition of this plexus, these maladies have promptly disappeared, together with all unpleasant symptoms which had accompanied them. A great number of patients have been cured by this remedy, much to their astonishment. Their satisfaction and gayety formed a marked contrast to the depression and sadness which had afflicted them for months, and in one instance, for years."

The same writer has often witnessed prolonged relief from the use of this syrup in softening of the stomach, and in cancerous and other serious affections of this organ.—"But," he observes, "if the action of Codeine be uniform upon the ganglionic system of the grand sympathetic, it does not seem to modify in any sensible manner the nervous centre which forms the spinal-marrow. It is certain, he says, that the use of this substance does not alter the character or intensity of neuralgic pains. It appears to exercise no power over the nervous cords which correspond with the vertebral part of the apparatus of innervation." Magendie, on the other hand, denies that it exercises any specific action or control over the ganglionic nerves.

Our own experiments with Codeine have quite convinced us that its specific action upon the entire brain and spinal-marrow is most distinct and unequivocal. The exhilaration, the semi-intoxication, the convulsive movements of the muscles of the limbs, and neck, paralysis of the limbs, the augmentation of the circulation and respiration, and the occasional nausea and vomiting which it induces, indicate a special influence upon the great nervous centres.

All of the patients which were cured by M. Barbier had been previously treated with Sydenham's Laudanum, without any benefit. This writer alludes to the peculiar character of the Codeine sleep; which was always calm, and never accompanied or followed by heaviness and numbness of the head, swelling of the eyes, congestion of the brain, nausea, &c., like Morphia and other opiates.

On waking a person who has taken Codeine, suddenly, from sleep, the intellect is clear, the spirits are good, and no unpleasant sensations are experienced; while a patient who awakens abruptly from a morphine sleep, is confused, wandering, pale, giddy, dull, stupid and miserable.

We have occasionally prescribed it in obstinate coughs with much advantage. It has always allayed the cough, diminished materially expectoration, quieted nervous excitability, and produced trauquil and refreshing sleep. In most instances the improvement in the cough and expectoration has continued for several days without a repetition of the dose. In these cases we have employed the first trituration in grain doses.

In several cases of chorea we have observed marked benefit from its use at the third and sixth attenuation. It appears to be peculiarly appropriate in those cases where the sleep is constantly disturbed, and where there is an unusual tendency to involuntary twitchings of the muscles of different parts of the body.

Two cases of neuralgia characterized by frequent spasmodic and painful twitchings of of the muscles of the legs and arms, have apparently been cured by the twelfth dilution of Codeia. One of those cases was of three years' standing, and had resisted the action of many homœopathic and allopathic medicines.

One of the provers of Codeia, (Mr. Hoffmann) was cured of an habitual twitching of the eyelid while under its influence as prover.

Another case of morbid excitability of the nervous system, in consequence of chronic ovaritis, and supressed menstruation, was much benefited by the use of the third trituration, four times daily. The symptoms in this instance were, frequent paroxysms of involuntary twitchings of the muscles of all parts of the body, indigestion, and various manifestations of hysteria.

It has now and then given temporary relief in sympathetic nausea and vomiting during pregnancy. In consequence of its specific action upon the ganglionic nerves, we infer that it must operate favorably upon almost every variety of sympathetic disturbance of the digestive apparatus. In these instances we have prescribed the third and sixth attenuations.—*No. Am. Jour. Homœo.*

CHINESE OMNIVEROUSNESS.

The Chinese have no prejudice whatever as regards food; they eat anything and everything from which they can derive nutrition. Dogs, especially puppies, are habitually sold for food; and I have seen in the butchers' shops, large dogs skinned and hanging with their viscera by the side of pigs and goats. Even to rats and mice the Chinese have no objection — neither to flesh of monkeys and snakes; the sea slug is an aristocratical and costly delicacy which is never wanting, any more than the edible birds'-nests, at a feast where honor is intended to be done to the guests. Unhatched ducks and chickens are a favorite dish. Nor do the early stages of putrefaction create disgust; rotten eggs are by no means condemned to perdition; fish is the more acceptable when it has a strong fragrance and flavor to give more gusto to the rice. As the food the Chinese eat is for the most part hard, coarse, and of little cost, so their beverages are singularly economical. Drunkenness is a rare vice in China, and fermented spirits or strong drinks are seldom used. Tea may be said to be the national, the universal beverage; and though that employed by the multitude does not cost more than from 3d. to 6d. per lb., an infusion of less costly leaves is commonly employed, especially in localities remote from the tea districts. Both in eating and drinking the Chinese are temperate, and are satisfied with two daily meals — "the morning rice" at about ten, A.M., and "the evening rice" at five P.M. The only repugnance I have observed in China is to the use of milk — an extraordinary prejudice, especially considering the Tartar influences which have been long dominant in the land; but I never saw or heard of butter, cream, milk, or whey being introduced at any native Chinese table.

HEALTH IN WISCONSIN.

This is a beautiful State. Its climate resources, the character, industry and prosperity of the people insure to it a very prominent political and moral position in the family of States.

Madison is the capital; the seat also of the University, and of social refinements. Joseph Hobbins, M.D., a gentleman with whom we have had many years of agreeable acquaintance, and whose medical opinions command respect, has answered an inquiry addressed to him from would-be-settlers at the East, respecting the location of Madison, as a place of health. This is his professional answer.

Of the perfect salubrity of Madison there can be no question. It has no endemic disease, no bilious fever, no typhoid fever, no ague. And the epidemics which have occasionally visited it, have been of such a perfectly mild type as scarcely to be recognized for the epidemics of other and less healthy places. Measles is scarcely known, and altogether free from those fearful complications and consequences so common in the East. Scarlet fever is rarely heard of, and not at all recognizable as the scarlet fever of the eastern cities. There it is terribly fatal. Here it requires little or no medical treatment. The worst form of cholera that has visited us — a solitary visitation — was English cholera, fatal only in a very few instances, and those occurring in persons of previous bad health or bad habits.

People generally, residents of Madison, are healthy looking. This applies particularly to children and young people, thus affording the best indication of all others of the salubrity of our location.

The mortality among little children, so fearfully great in the cities on the Atlantic borders and of older countries, we are altogether free from, and deaths of any kind are rare among us.

For that large class of persons in Boston and elsewhere, who suffer from that peculiar and inveterate form of dyspepsia, best known as nervous dyspepsia, as well as for those thou

sand-and-one cases of chronic bronchitis and "ministerial throat ail" so rife in the places referred to, Madison offers a salutary and safe resort.—Such affections are here unknown, save as cases of importation. Our perfectly dry atmosphere, equable climate, and high and inland situation, together with our more simple and regular habits of living, our out-door exercises in hunting, fishing, boating, &c., furnish us at once with the best restorative and preventive.

Rheumatic and gouty persons seem to find here almost a perfect freedom from those diseases. — Europeans especially, who at home were martyrs to one or the other of these diseases, become almost altogether exempt from them.

The most noticeable feature, however, of our climate, is its almost miraculous influence over the progress of phthisi. Cases, far advanced in this disease, progressing with a fatal rapidity on the seacoast and in the cities of the East, are, on coming here, checked in their course almost immediately, and life which seemed not worth more than a weeks' miserable lease, is lengthened out to eighteen months or two years, the acute cases becoming chronic.

Very numerous indeed are the instances met with here of consumptive persons coming from Europe and from the East in the first stage of phthisi, who have regained their health under the happy influence of our climate and our more natural mode of living, and this too with but little medical aid.

A remarkable, distinctive, and self-evident fact confirmatory of the correctness of the opinion I have expressed as to the perfect salubrity of Madison, is to be found in the healthy appearance of the foreigners who throng our streets. — They not only retain their native clear and healthy complexion, but maintain their flesh, increasing and prospering. Whether German, English, Irish, Scotch, Dutch or Norwegian, there is no falling off from their good physical condition.

PERSECUTION OF QUACKERY IN CANADA.

At Toronto, Canada West, one of those silly fellows who gull servants and other unreflecting people out of their money by pretending to peculiar skill, who called himself an Indian Doctor, had a complaint lodged against him. It appears no one is permitted to practise there without license, and consequently a prosecution may arrest his further progress. Here in the States, however, the very fact of attempting to put a stop to quackery by some legal process would make a hero of him, and not only prodigiously increase his revenues, but perhaps be the means of making the impostor a member of the legislature. Experience has satisfied every body here, that the good sense of the people is the strongest barrier against quacks and quackery. Acts of the General Court never arrest a single dose of patent pills from being swallowed. The sovereign people of the United States have enlarged notions of liberty, and one of the essential privileges for which they would contend to the last breath, is the privilege of being tortured and finally killed by quack doctors.

But this is a history of the case at Woodstock, as far as reported to this date:—

Dr. Grant lodged information that F. Tumblety, the Indian Herb Doctor, was practising physic in this city, without being duly licensed.

Mr. J. Boulton was present on behalf of the Doctor.

Since the last charge was brought against the Herb Doctor, it seems the medical profession have been hunting up evidence, in order to remove one who, it is said, is a formidable competitor.

Thomas Mullen was called and deposed. I am a servant, and have lately lived in the service of Mr. Clarke Gamble. About the 8th or 9th of February last, being then suffering from general debility, loss of memory, &c., I went to Dr. Tumblety. On speaking to him, he said I was in a bad position in consequence of secret habits, which, he alleged, I was addicted to. After some conversation, I admitted the fact. I asked the Doctor if he could do anything for me. The Doctor replied, I can cure you. He said, that as I was a servant, he would only charge me £5, and £2 10 when I was cured, adding that as I was poor, he would cure me for that sum. I asked if he had any doubt of being able to cure me, to which he rejoined, "Do, my good boy, do you think I would take your money if I could not cure you?" I then gave him two ten dollar bills, and he gave me a bottle of medicine and a box of pills, with a printed paper of instructions as to diet, &c. Dr. Tumblety told me to call again in a week, and I did so, and he gave me more medicine. I continued to return to him weekly for about seven weeks, to get fresh medicines. I kept out of place during the time, to attend to my health. About eight days ago, I went to him and told

him my chest was very bad. He ordered his young man to give me a strengthening plaster, with directions to spread it on a cloth and lay it on my chest four or five days. I went back to him on Saturday, and told him I had experienced much benefit from the plaster. He told me to renew it. When I called last, he told me to come to him on Thursday next.

Mr. Boulton cross-examined the witnesses at considerable length. I followed the printed instructions which he gave me as well as I could. I told Dr. Tumblety of my habits, since I consulted with him. I have not practised it, as he ordered me not to do so. I felt a lightness about the head at the time I first went to the Indian Herb Doctor. Dr. Tumblety's young man was present when I made the admission. I had been to other Doctors before this, but they did not say anything about the habit referred to. Dr. Tumblety was the first man who told me that I had indulged in such a habit. During the time I had been taking the medicine, I stopped at Dr. Clark's, near Yorkville, and the rest of the time at Mr. Clarke Gambles. Previous to my going to Dr. Tumblety, I had been to Dr. Sewell, who gave him a prescription. Dr. Bovel also examined my chest, at the recommendation of Dr. Philbrick. Dr. Sewell told me that I was predisposed to decline.

Mr. Boulton asked his Worship, from the nature of the evidence given, did he think it was a case he should send to a jury?

His Worship said that he thought the mere fact of Dr. Tumblety taking the fee, which was uncontradicted, brought the case under the meaning of the Act, which rendered a party practising physic without license, liable to a penalty of not less than £25, or imprisonment for the term not less than six months. Under the peculiar circumstances of the case, he would, however, consent to receive moderate bail for Mr. Tumblety's appearance at the Assizes.

Dr. Tumblety said if security to the amount of £5000 or £10,000 was required, he could at once procure it.

His Worship said he did not dispute that, and fixed the bail at two securities in the sum of £50 each, and the Doctor in £100.

Messrs. Carey and Montgomery at once entered into the necessary recognizances, and the case terminated.

From the *Globe* this comment on the proceeding has been copied:—

Dr. Tumblety has been committed for trial by the Police Magistrate, on a charge of taking money under false pretences. The charge evidently rests on slight grounds. There is not the slightest proof that Tumblety mistook the disease or gave improper medicine; no attempt was made to show anything of the kind. We know nothing of Tumblety's practice; we only know that he is a man who, although very illiterate, is believed by many persons to cure many kinds of disease, and we know no reason why he should not use his gifts in the healing as well as the many noodles who write "M.D." after their names.

WHAT IS INSTINCT — WHAT IS MIND?

From the last number of the St. Louis *Medical and Surgical Journal*, the following extract is taken. It is a part, only, of an article not yet completed, by Wm. Garwood, M. D., of St. Louis. Whether he makes converts or not to his philosophy, no one will presume to question the writer's reasoning powers:

Had we the space, we could trace the successive and almost imperceptible steps through which the rudimental circle is gradually expanded until it reaches the convoluted form and labyrinthic depths of the Lord of creation, where it lies folded like a handkerchief in its cranial pocket. And what do these things teach? They teach us very plainly that man, even in his highest development, is only a more complicated apparatus than the worm which he disdainfully treads upon — that his greater completeness and diversity of machinery possess him with a proportionate diversity of attributes and capacities — and that the only difference between him and the rest of the animal world arises from his *greater nervous wealth*, not because of the special favors of a "Special Providence." From the analysis we have just submitted the nervous system to, we know that the Spinal Cord is composed of a goodly number of ganglia, so closely wedded to each other as not to be separated — that each segment is endowed with a different mission and accomplishes a different result, though this difference could not be anticipated and accounted for by any chemical nor physical signs — each works perfect in its way, evolving far less discord than is manifested in the cerebral phenomena, and yet no one ever dreamed that a spiritual *immateriality* was acting through this nervous knot. It is universally conceded that the

actions of the Spinal Cord are the results of its own inherent powers; it of itself draws its nourishment from the blood, generates its force, and speeds along the wheels of our organic life. Another very interesting fact which permits a mention here is, that the secreting cells of the various glands of the body are not to be distinguished by any microscopic difference, and yet through their mill-work is sifted most heterogeneous articles — Bile, Urine, Milk! If these be admitted, and no one will deny them, why not apply the same course of reasoning to the Brain that we do to the Spinal chain, particularly since the former is but a continuation of, and super-addition to the latter? What shadow of evidence have we that the Vertebral column, the Medulla Oblongata, and the Cerebellum, work according to their respective physical endowments and capacities, and that the Cerebrum does not, — that its manifestations are but the utterances of a separate, independent, self-existent *something*, which condescends temporarily to speak and act through this degrading and inefficient medium? None whatever, except that this MATERIAL deduction *seemed* to contradict our consciousness of a future existence, which the most of us so lovingly entertain. This is a most unphilosophical objection to a positive declaration of Nature, and scarcely needs a moment's detention to expose its inconsistency and fallacy. The people of olden time had a *consciousness* that the sun went round the earth — they saw it go; when they knew more, they saw more accurately, — and so may we have the same opportunity of improving our view in looking at Mind. By adopting this conclusion, we are none the less immortal; and if we were, our belief or disbelief would not change the fact.

What is the nature of the nervous product, we do not know; but certain it is, that, according to its source, do we call it a reflex-action, a sensation, or an idea. Mr. Wilkinson speaks very aptly concerning our investigations of the brain and its tubes: "Suppose that London were visible from one of the stars, and were known to be a city of the living, but its inhabitants were not within the power of vision. And suppose, further, that the stellar people were of those who believe nothing but what they can see. It is clear, that the outworks and great channels of London life, falling under their ken, would be mistaken for the living things. And as life always brings motion to mind, the vibrations and shakings of the houses and walls of our metropolis, would be postulated as the life which was alleged. But suppose, further, that on some coronation-day vast crowds of the inhabitants assembled, and formed a dark mass before the eyes of the gazing star; this would of course be taken to be of the same substance and rank with the houses, and the identification of life with bricks and mortar would still stand. In this case, the truth, or the living multitudes, though seen, would lend itself to the fallacy; the only escape from which would be by analogy, proclaiming that solid houses everywhere are dead, though inhabited by fluid or freely movable living beings; by imagination or hypothesis, guessing that towns and streets are for men, and not *vice versa;* and by reason or theory, affirming mankind, and accounting for the appearances of the city upon the wants of its substantial, though separately invisible inhabitants."

Phrenology, though I cannot regard it at present otherwise than as amalgamated with much error, contains much truth, and has dissipated much of our mental superstition — has withdrawn us from the airy abstractions of metaphysics, and given a terra-firma to tread upon — has simplified to the comprehension of every man, and in familiar terms, the action of his nervous self, and framed a beautiful theory as to its *modus operandi*. One fact we do know, — and we gather it from Human and Comparative Anatomy, from Pathology and Experiment — that *each part of the brain has its peculiar function*, but their precise location Physiology cannot as yet determine. An analysis of the mind, I think, will show it to have fewer elements than Phrenology numbers; but notwithstanding the error, these brain-students have furnished us with many tangible and fruitful truths.

Smellie's definitions are not unworthy of repetition, though his phraseology is not the most acceptable:

"MODIFIED, COMPOUNDED, OR EXTENDED INSTINCTS.

Superstition is instinct of fear extended to imaginary objects of terror.

Devotion is an extension of the instinct of love to unseen personified power.

Reverence is devotion.

Avarice is the instinct of love directed to an improper object.

Hope is the instinct of love directed to future good.

Envy is compounded of love, avarice, ambition and fear.

Benevolence is the instinct of love diffused over all animated beings.

Sympathy is the instinct of fear transferred to another person, and reflected back upon ourselves."

How like you the MATERIAL basis we have erected, and from which we believe every so-called mental phenomenon originates, by virtue of its inherent specific capacity and attribute? Nature does not *often* tell a lie, and it is to this PHYSICAL source that she points as the germinating bed of all the wondrous exhibitions of thought and adaptation which cluster around the more highly developed creation. The Brain is a garden in which both weeds and flowers grow, and so exquisite and varied is the workmanship — so passing strange — so complete and comprehensive are its magnificent products, that we doubt the evidence of our senses, and think no other explanation adequate to solve the mighty problem, than that a God or Archangel is whispering through us to will and to do. We have thought it necessary to create an *immaterial* something, called Mind, or Spirit, independent, yet dwelling in us for a time, as the only rational way of accounting for the wonders we unfold. Says Young —

> "A miracle with miracles enclosed,
> Is man: And starts his faith at what is strange?
> We nothing know, but what is marvellous;
> Yet, what is marvellous we can't believe."

Says A. J. Davis, in his Great Harmonia, vol. iv., p. 314: "The human Brain is at once the mystery and the master of the world. It is a wonderful magnet—drawing, without thinking, the circumambient life of the globe to itself—a factory, so to speak, wherein is manufactured and individualized *sensation*, *thought*, *motion*, *memory*; all in man's nature which is simple, beautiful, complicate, sublime."

The view that is here presented deprives us of much eloquence, deflects our composition from the imaginative to the mathematical, drawing us away from the poet's domain, and fettering to Anatomical precision and philosophical calmness. The emotions and passions have a less fanciful field for display, and our most earnest thoughts are solicited to know the truth and to dwell upon facts. This, for a time, will appear to lessen our devotion, by subtracting our airy and baseless enthusiasm; but, in the place of conjectural, passional, and romantic hallucinations, we have the fervor of a well-grounded zeal, the honest, energetic purpose which Truth, well seen and known, inspires.

AMERICAN PHARMACY.

BY JAMES RAE, DRUGGIST, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

The following paper is worth reading; its terseness, Scotch honesty and truthfulness require no props to sustain the author's propositions. Certainly this is a great country.

In the United States, where individuals from all parts of the habitable globe assemble for the purpose of improving their circumstances and bettering their condition in life, we find druggists from all countries, both learned and unlearned — those who have studied under Liebig, Pereira, Redwood, Christison, and Bache, down to the most illiterate and contemptible specimens of our class, who may have read to a certain extent "Price Currents," but know nothing of Materia Medica, Botany, or Chemistry. We have many Prussians and natives of the other German States here, in the capacity of assistants and employers, who have passed both their first and second examinations in Germany, and who are thoroughly experienced apothekers. We have the French Pharmacien, who, in many respects, is like the German, having been brought up under the protection and encouragement of government,as far as a knowledge of his business is concerned. I have always found them careful Dispensers and good Pharmaceutical Chemists. The same remark applies, to a certain extent, to the Norwegians, Danes, and Dutchmen, although I have seen some not worthy of being called, in the true sense of the word, an apothecary, from the limited education they had received in the mother country. Of the English, Scotch, and Irish Druggists whom I have met in the States, I can speak rather favorably; for, although nothing to be compared with the Deutsche Apotheker or French Pharmacien as practical Chemists, still the clerks and men in business whom I have met are far superior to the Americans in point of general information, as regards the preparation of pharmaceutical compounds, natural history, chemical constituents, adulterations, actions, doses, and uses of drugs. I have met one or two members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain occupying the very highest positions as Dispensing Chemists and prescription clerks in several of the drug stores in the Eastern and Western States of the Union. Irish Druggists are quite numerous, but I have only seen one Scotchman besides myself in any drug store in this country. Of

the Americans I cannot, but with few exceptions, speak approvingly, from the fact that, while they possess, in the large towns, the richest and most gorgeously fitted-up stores I ever witnessed (far surpassing anything of the kind in Paris, London, or Edinburgh), which are, at the same time, conducted by men of education, and in many instances by Pharmaceutical Chemists of the highest standing; still, when I come to speak of the *majority*, I say, most unequivocally, they are the worst specimens of our profession, as far as knowledge of their business is concerned, that could exist, or do exist, consistent with my observation. In the first place, I may say, with all safety, that ten out of twelve that keep drug stores in America have neither served an apprenticeship nor been educated for the business. I have found farmers, plasterers, cloth merchants, grocers, and men of other businesses foreign to Pharmacy engaged in the sale of medicine, when they did not know one drug from another in their shop unless it was labelled. It is here a mere matter of trade to start a drug store. The principal necessary is money and brass, *not education*. The integrity of the art has been sacrificed to the spirit of mammon; and, with the exception of a few in the large towns who do a legitimate business, we daily witness the most unworthy annexations made to the apothecary shops from the domain of the bar-room, the tobacconist, the confectioner and the quack; and to such an extent sometimes as to obscure the very identity of the place, and to deprive us of the innocent amusement which we have derived from some absurd inquiry for an article foreign to our business. This is no longer an absurdity in the Western States, for there is scarcely anything, from an assafœtida pill to a toothpick, from a box of window glass to a hair pin, from a keg of white lead to a fiddle-string, from a pint of brandy to a cigar, that you cannot obtain at the apothecary's, either at the present moment, or eventually, if you ask for it often enough. I have been both in the wholesale and retail departments of the business here. The principal wholesale business houses are centred in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia; some of these, I am credibly informed, make sales to the enormous amount of two millions of dollars annually. In Buffalo, Chicago, and St. Louis, there are also several extensive firms engaged in the wholesale exclusively; and I know of several houses in Chicago that do business to the amount of two hundred thousand dollars a year. That business is nearly all done by letter, or a personal visit of the customer to the drug house, as they do not, in but very few instances, keep a traveller on the road, as is done in Britain. In addition to all drugs, perfumery, brushes, toilet articles, and patent medicines usually kept in a drug store, we find in every wholesale house in America immense piles of window glass, thousands of kegs of white lead, putty, and all manner of paints and oils, the glazier and paint business being principally in the hands of the druggist here. Every imaginable size of glass is put up in wooden boxes by the glass houses in Pittsburg and New York, from 6 × 7 to 52 × 40, fifty panes in a box—the window glass not coming in huge crates, as in England, but is cut to the desired sizes at the glass works. The white lead in oil is put up in 25 lb. kegs at the manufactories in St. Louis, Buffalo and Chicago; and, like the window glass, is an article of very large consumption, from the fact that most of the houses in America are built of wood, and, in a new country like this, are built in immense numbers. Another article is sold by the druggists here, which meets with no restriction, either by license from government or local authorities—pure brandy, wines, and liquors being oftener asked for in a drug store, even in the State of Maine, than Alexandria senna or Epsom salts. The plea is purity of the article sold for medicinal purposes; but it is as often, I believe, sold as a beverage as for sickness. Alcohol, or spt. vini rect., is a considerable article of commerce in the drug store, from the fact that it is used extensively for cooking purposes, and also as burning fluid for lamps, in combination with camphene or pure ol. terebinth, four parts of the former to one of the latter, which gives a better light than candles or naphtha, and is cheaper here, there being no duty on alcohol. I can buy it for 75 cents (or 3s. of English money) a gallon, and sell about a barrel of the spirit-gas, as it is called, at one dollar a gallon, retail, nearly every day. Wholesale houses are always well conducted, commercially speaking, although many of the heads in the largest firms know nothing but buying and selling and making a profit, which they do in most instances pretty successfully. Fair dealing is the rule, although adulteration is carried on by some unprincipled persons in the trade to a large extent. Clerks or assistants are paid from £60 to £250 a year; smartness in putting up a parcel being more a requisite by the employer than a knowledge of drugs, in every case under my observation.

Turning to the retail department of our business, we find, in the large towns, handsomely fitted-up stores, marble floors, marble counters, marble vases, and marble fountains, plate-glass windows, plate-glass show-cases, costing as high as £100, costly mirrors, and everything attractive in the shape of painting and decoration; stores conducted by men of the highest education and practical experience as Pharmaceutical Chemists, such as Hegeman & Clark, J V. Rushton, and others of New York; S. Mathews, of Buffalo; J. H. Reed, of Chicago; and many others whom I could name, if it was not invidious to do so. These, and others in all the large towns, are ornaments to the profession that they are engaged in, being thorough Pharmaceutists. The business is conducted in every respect equal to any in London or Edinburgh. In almost every instance in large towns, the physicians receive prescription blanks (I send a specimen) from the druggists, with the doctor's office printed on one side, and the street and number of the drug store on the other side. This arrangement answers the purpose very well; it gives publicity to the doctor's address, and he has the privilege of sending his patients to a person who has his confidence, as a dispenser of pure medicines, with accuracy and proper regard to their pharmaceutical preparation, as laid down by the United States Pharmacopœia. In small towns and villages, Physicians generally prepare their own prescriptions, but in large towns the Physician prescribes and the Druggist dispenses. In looking over my file in the prescription record, I see I have put up in the last five months 2052 prescriptions, ranging in price from ten cents to two dollars, or from five pence to ten shillings of English money. The prices charged for prescriptions are usually a shade higher than in Britain; one dozen pills, although only pil. rhei or pil. hydrag. we charge 1*s.*: powders of calomel and Dover's powder, and such like, are charged 2*s.* 6*d.* a dozen; with quinine or other expensive chemical entering into their composition, they are usually double the price; for a ℥ ij box of ointment we are paid ten cents, or fivepence; lotions and washes are usually figured upon at sixpence an oz; tinctures invariably sixpence an ounce; and everything else dispensed has a nearly corresponding price. In almost every prescription store (the word store may appear strange, but it is invariably used here) they have what they call a prescription case, nicely arranged as a miniature Druggist's shop, stained or cut glass in front and sides, where everything commonly used in a prescription is kept in small bottles, which obviates the necessity of the clerk or assistant running all over the store for every little thing wanted. You probably see there, in the lower row of shelves, a complete selection of Tilden's extracts, prepared in vacuo from the plants grown in their extensive gardens at New Lebanon, in the State of New York. These extracts are put up in the solid form in ½ lb. and 1 lb. wide-mouthed bottles, neatly corked, and covered with a green-papered box, labelled with the Latin and common name of each extract. I have examined several extracts prepared by the Messrs. Tilden, both in pilular and compound fluid extract form, and have always found them to possess the necessary requisites, purity in the preparation, with the color, taste, and aroma, peculiar to each plant. In their gardens at New Lebanon they have upwards of forty acres cultivated under their immediate superintendence, somewhat in the following arrangement:—Ten acres in Taraxacum, two in Conium, three in Hyoscyamus, three in Belladonna, three in Lettuce, three in Sage, two, Summer Savory, two, Stramonium, two, Burdock and Dock, one, Marjoram, two, Digitalis, two, Parsley, Poppies, and Horehound, one, Aconite and Balm; the remainder being Basil, Button, Snake-root, Blessed Thistle, Borage, Coriander, Feverfew, Hollyhock, Hyssop, Larkspur, Lovage, Marsh Mallow, Marygold, Mugwort, Mint, Tansy, and several others, which are used in America, but comparatively little in Britain. They have a large factory, employing about forty persons, with a powerful steam-engine, which performs the double duty of propelling the powdering apparatus, and driving a double-acting air-pump connected with their vacuum apparatus. The recent plants intended for extracts are brought to the mill from the gardens, reduced to a coarse pulpy state by a pair of chasers, and subjected to a powerful screw press to extract the juice. This is clarified by coagulation, strained, and the pure juice poured into the large vacuum apparatus, holding several hundred gallons, where it is concentrated rapidly to a syrupy consistence, at a temperature varying from 100° to 110°, almost entirely free from the deteriorating influence of the atmosphere.

I may some time have an opportunity of sending to the Pharmaceutical Museum specimens of the various extracts, as also specimens of American herbs and roots put up by a

peculiar community called "Shakers," who have three gardens at New Lebanon.

But to return to our miniature drug store, the prescription case: we have every preparation of mercury, iodine, potash, quinine, iron, &c., with tinctures, waters, acids, and syrups; scales, spatulas, labels, and corks; record and library of reference, such as the *U. S. Dispensatory*, edited by Wood and Bache; Christison, Pereira, Gray, Brande, Turner, Dunglison, &c., all concentrated into one spot, where we can lay our hands upon them in a moment, and are seldom under the necessity of running all over the store for everything wanted; but in ten cases out of twelve we receive the prescription from the patient or customer, and in a few minutes the medicine is returned, put up, sealed, labelled and recorded, without stirring from the prescription-case. Physicians' prescriptions are always written in Latin; but with one or two exceptions, Latin is seldom used for the direction; and upon the whole I think this is right, for falling into the hands of inexperienced clerks, "cap. cochl. ij. ampla 4ta q. q. hora," might mean something very different from "two table-spoonfuls every fourth hour," and placed in the hands of an *illiterate dispensing chemist*, who does not know P. Opii from Pulv. Rhei, might lead to serious consequences. Medicines specially prepared for the prescription trade are, with few exceptions, always as chemically pure as those manufactured in London or Edinburgh, but I once found traces of corrosive sublimate in calomel, prepared by a distinguished manufacturing house in Philadelphia, which stands deservedly high as manufacturing Chemists, and from which our supply of quinine, morphia, &c., mostly used, comes. In addition to Lubin's, Henry's, Low's, and Wright's perfumery in great variety, a large show-case is usually devoted to patent medicines and quack nostrums, some of them of English importation, but for the most part peculiarly American. The report on quack medicines, presented to the American Pharmaceutical Association some time ago, made the following announcement: "The tendency to take medicine *ad libitum* is a feature of the Anglo-Saxon race, duly inherited by the American people, which, whatever may be its faults, is as much their nature as is their love of political and personal freedom." To which the editor of the *New York Journal of Pharmacy* remarks, "If by this is meant, that that portion of the human race designated is addicted to dissipation with medicine, it is a grave charge, and to me a new one, although I have heard them often accused of beer-drinking and gluttony; but if men will not be dissuaded from error, even let it be so." In every drug store in the United States you see old Benjamin Godfrey staring at you from the shelves, together with Bateman's Drops, Holloway's Pills, and Harlem Oil. As for classifying or giving you a list of American humbugs, that is a hopeless task—what with Cholagogues, Cherry Pectorals, Tricopherous, Katheirons, Mexican Mustang Liniment, and an innumerable host, some good and some not worth anything; still they form a considerable item in a druggist's stock, and are for the most part salable, for two reason—that they are well advertised, and recommended by the druggist at all hazards of reputation for the sake of a sale. Another important item connected with the drug business in America is the soda-water trade during the summer months, not bottled as in Britain, but drawn from the fountain. Almost every druggist has a soda-water machine, either Swan's, Nichol's, or some other machine. The fountains are either copper or iron, capable in most instances, of holding four or five hundred glasses of soda-water, or rather carbonized water; perhaps a dozen syrups, such as pineapple, strawberry, raspberry, vanilla, lemon, ginger, cream, pear, banana, &c., &c., are ready in different bottles to meet the varied tastes of the soda-drinkers, which are innumerable in a hot summer's day, with the thermometer standing at 90 deg. in the shade, the water being cooled by means of a refrigerator packed in ice. The syrups are all made from artificial essences, imported from Germany and London, although some are made in this country; but seldom or ever does it happen that the real fruit is used, from the fact that, made in large quantities, it soon ferments with the heat, and is therefore unfit for use.

There are a few other peculiarities of American Pharmacy which might have been mentioned, but for the present I must forego, as I have endeavored to be instructive rather than tiresome—to be honest rather than prejudiced—to express, in my own language, what I have seen, rather than what I have heard.—*Amer. Drug Cir.*

A painter having turned physician, was asked the reason. "Because my former business exhibited my mistakes in too glaring a manner. I have now chosen one in which they will all be buried."

COMMUNICATIONS.

(Communicated for The Medical World.)

NEW YORK OHPTHALMIC SCHOOL.

The fifth anniversary of the New York Ophthalmic School in Stuyvesant st., was held on the 2d ult. in the New York Medical College, and notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather a large number of medical students and others were in attendance.

Dr. Ferris, the President, and Peter Cooper, the Vice President, both being necessarily absent, Solomon Jenner, Esq., one of the Life Governors, presided, who opened the exercises by introducing the Valedictorian of the evening, Dr. William Rumsey, of Canada, one of the members of the graduating class, who, on coming forward, began by stating the numerous advantages possessed by the medical student in New York, referring, among the rest, to the Ophthalmic Hospital, which he eulogized, and in the name of his associates thanked Drs. Stephenson and Garrish for their courtesy and kindness at the cliniques, and particularly Dr. Stephenson, for his Lectures, and also delicately alluded to the Doctor's generosity in delivering the proceeds of the course towards the maintenance of the Institution. He then in a pleasing style portrayed the life of the student, from his boyhood to his entrance upon the duties of life. In describing the schoolboy, he spoke of their early friendships and occasional preferences for the other sex, giving rise to a serious affection in the cardiac region, and evincing itself by unmistakable diagnostic symptoms. He first described the divinity student, with his sombre, studious air, known and recognized in all his movements. Secondly, he portrayed the student of law, his flippancy, volatility, and assumed importance, with occasional paroxysms of pomposity. He next turned his attention to medical students, and gave a graphic description of their characteristics, their habits, manner of life, associations, eccentricities, &c., and defended them from the unjust charges that are too often made against them. He said that if a medical student was gay, he was good hearted; if he was wild, he was not the less charitable; if he was rough, he was industrious; if he was fond of amusement, he was not so much so but that he would leave it to attend to the poor and needy; and as an evidence of this he pointed to the classes for the season which had just closed, and said that they could by their own conduct refute the statements of those whose delight it was to speak against them. He closed by making some valedictory remarks to his class and preceptors. He depicted the joys of home, and the pleasures of meeting those whom we loved, and enjoined on the class that they should not forget their teachers. "Let us imitate them," he said, "not only in their practice, but also in their noble acts of charity; and if we cannot make for ourselves a name as brilliant as theirs, let us at least have the satisfaction of knowing that we are enshrined in the memories of those who have known suffering and distress; and at last when we go to that bourne from whence no traveller returns, let us give back to our Maker those talents which he has given us, doubled, and we shall hear the joyful words, 'Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.'"

Dr. Stephenson next addressed the class before announcing the names of the graduates. He observed to the President that the members of the class would naturally expect some remarks from him on the present occasion, but he felt his incompetency for the task. He could, if it were necessary, amputate a limb or extract a cataract with less embarrassment than attempt to make an extemporaneous address. He could talk about the eye, or any other organ in the body, for the hour together, but making a speech was a different business. He felt more reluctance in appearing on the present occasion, from the fact that until a short time before our meeting, another and far more eminent speaker was to have occupied the time now allotted to him. He stated that the Institution whose interests he represented treated annually about *twelve hundred* patients gratuitously, for diseases of the eye; that a large class of students had been in attendance at the Hospital, and that between *forty* and *fifty* students had passed examination, and were entitled to a testimonial of their qualifications on this department of surgery. It was to be regretted that the evening was so unfavorable, as large assemblies on such occasions were calculated to make a favorable impression; that thus the public was better prepared to appreciate the work of the regularly educated physician. Their effect upon the members of the legal profession would be equally beneficial, could they be induced to attend on these occasions. He stated that the medical profession was often treated discourteously by the members of the bar. It was not in the capacity of citizens that they evinced any hostlity or disrespect to the medical profession; it was not when laid upon

a sick bed, for then they were perfectly harmless and submissive; but it was when physicians were called upon to appear in their courts of justice — a misnomer, for they were often anything else than halls of justice — it was on occasions of that description that they (physicians) had reason to feel indignant. They claimed to be members of a learned profession as well as they of the law, and were entitled to be respected as such. The learned professions should be considered as a brotherhood, and if they failed to respect each other, the public would disrespect both, and thus they did injustice to themselves. He would, with permission of the audience, compare Medical students of this city with those of the Law, their course of study, and their schools. Schools, did he say? They have no Law Schools. In this renowned city, the metropolis of America, renowned for its commerce, its literary institutions, its Medical Colleges, its Hospitals, its Asylums, and all that is ennobling, in vain did he look for a Law School. If they wanted an institution of that description, they must go up the river to Albany, or to Cambridge, in Massachusetts. In connection with this fact he would inquire, was it not a shame and a disgrace to the Legal Profession in this city, that they had no Law Faculty in the New York University, numbering as they do among them some of the most distinguished Judges and Jurists that can be found in this renowned Republic. When interrogated on this point, one of the most eminent among them replied that it would not pay; that they could employ their time more profitably. He (Dr. S.) would ask, have they no regard for the honor, dignity, and future prosperity of their profession,—nopride for the reputation of their city? He considered it a strange spectacle,—a profession the most distinguished on earth, having for its object the happiness of individuals, the preservation of life, promotion of order, protection of property, and perpetuity of nations; a profession so elevated, and yet so devoid of liberal and enlarged philanthropy among its members. How would all this compare with the Medical profession? In this city we have three Colleges, unsustained by the patronage of the State, standing upon their individual merit, conducted by self-sacrificing men; by men filling Professorships, the revenue of which is by no means a compensation for their labor. But they have a higher object in view—the elevation of their profession, the advance of science, and the happiness of man. In comparing the Medical with the Law students, he said it was true that the Law student had more importance, or, to use a milder term, more assurance and effrontery — more of what the world would call polish. They had presumption enough to jeer us about the rough appearance and uncouth manners of Medical students, but he would advise these aspiring young pettifoggers not to forget that beneath a rough exterior there is often a gem, and that at no distant day these unassuming country students might eclipse them.

In the next place he would examine their curriculum of studies and compare it with that of students of medicine. A young man who wishes to become a member of the legal profession in this city enters a law office, and his instructor gives him a copy of Blackstone, or Kent's Commentaries to read, but, as a general thing, takes no further trouble in relation to his studies, never asking him a word on the fundamental principles of his profession. After a few months he is a candidate for admission to the bar, and with a score of others, more or less, is questioned, much in the same way that a class of school-boys are, going from one to another, and thus the matter ends: he is admitted.

It is far otherwise, sir, with the medical student; he is obliged to read medicine for three years with a regular practitioner, and submit to daily or weekly examinations, besides attending two courses of lectures at some of the medical colleges, and pass an examination before each one of seven or eight professors, before he can be admitted to the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He would refer to another aspect deserving of consideration, viz., the amount of gratuitous services rendered by the medical profession compared with that of members of the bar. Upon a careful estimate it is computed that the surgeons of the New York Ophthalmic Hospital (whose anniversary they were now celebrating) render an amount of gratuitous services equal to about $8000 annually, and that the profession in this city give away over $100,000 every year in relieving the poor. He asked the President who had ever heard of the lawyers of this city making an equal sacrifice for the poor and needy? He doubted whether the whole tribe of them in the United States had ever shown an equal amount of liberality. He would leave it to the intelligent auditory before him to judge of the merits of the two professions, and which was most entitled to the gratitude and esteem of the public. The doctor wound up by saying, Gentlemen, allow me, in con-

clusion, to bid you an affectionate farewell. Memory will oft recall the pleasant hours we have spent together in the investigation of this important branch of our profession. It will always afford me pleasure to hear of your prosperity, and I trust you will long remember our ophthalmia, for much of its future prosperity will depend on your co-operation. Dr. Stephenson then took his seat amid loud and continued cheering.

Dr. Stephenson now read the names of the graduates, and Mr. Jenner, as President, proceeded to deliver the diplomas, after which he, in a speech, replied with good humor, gave some very good advice as to how to conduct themselves through life, and gave the graduates his ideas of certain points in their professional career.

Mr. J. congratulated the surgeons on having so fine a class of students; he said he knew his friend Dr. Stephenson was very anxious that the board of Directors should erect a new building, but, for his part, he should feel prouder of such a class of graduates than the finest building they could produce.

At its conclusion Dr. Garrish read a very eloquent address to the graduates on the duties of the physician, and of the troubles and trials with which they would meet during their professional life. He bade them farewell with much feeling, and showed that he really meant what he said, when he told them how much he regretted parting from them.

I am sorry that I have not room for a more extended sketch of the doctor's remarks, but I understand that the address will be published in full in the next annual report of the institution.

The meeting then broke up, all parties appearing highly pleased with the evening's exercises. N. Y. O.

The following gentlemen were successful in their examinations and received their ophthalmic diplomas.

GRADUATES OF THE NEW YORK OPHTHALMIC SCHOOL,

For the Session of 1856-7.

F. B. Abbott, New York; Wm. L. Beall, Georgia; J. J. Beatty, (M. D.) Tennessee; Frank Bond, (A. B.) New York; J. P. Breneman, Pennsylvania; J. L. Buckley, New York; D. A. Cannon, (M. D. South Carolina; John H. Carroll, Alabama; Meigs Case, New York; Oliver Crook, (M. D.) Ohio; J. H. Forsyth, (A. B., M. D.) New York; Wm. Freeman, Canada West; Byron Ghent, Canada West; John Grammer, Jr., (M. D.) Virginia; S. M. Goelet, Tennessee; J. W. Green, (M. D.) Virginia; D. F. Gunn, Georgia; M. R. Hall, Georgia; J. Harrington, Connecticut; J. Henckler, Germany; Oliver P. Hoff, Georgia; Abbott Hodgman, Massachusetts; H. W. Hogan, Kentucky; O. W. Hornsby, Mississippi; L. F. H. Jordan, Virginia; E. E. Lee, (M. D.) New York; H. D. Leigh, (M. D.) Virginia; S. M. Lewis, Kentucky; C. H. Meeker, New Jersey; J C. O'Neal, New York; J. Priestly, (M. D.) Scotland; Domingo Rafael, (M. D.) Spain; Edgar Reading, (M. D.) Illinois; Wm. Rumsey, Canada West; G. H. Rumbaugh, Pennsylvania; R. M. Savage, (M. D.) Virginia; E. P. Sheldon, New York; G. R. Smith, New York; S. H. Stephenson, Kentucky; T. M. Stroud, Georgia; S. D. Sutton, Georgia; A. L. Sawyer, (M. D.) Ohio; C. A. Vanderveer, New Jersey; M. S. Zirkle, Virginia.

Drs. Crook, Savage and Sawyer joined the class after the catalogue was published.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.

Maine Insane Hospital.—Although the annual report of the trustees was made to the legislature in December, it was not our good fortune to abtain a copy till nearly the middle of April. However, better late than never.

Nearly all the structures erected for the insane at the public expense,—even some of the most recent,—were considered nearly architectural perfections. They were supposed to be thoroughly built, and combined all the conveniences necessary to the maintainance of order, health, cleanliness, ventilation and other comforts, without stint. Yet it is the burden of complaint in a large proportion of these annual reports, that the institution is lacking in something quite essential. One wants a better heating apparatus; another more land; a third enlarged grounds; a fourth funds, and the Maine hospital, till of late, has needed a full supply of water.

It is the bounden duty of the legislature to provide all that may be necessary for conducting these establishments to the best advantage for the comfort of patients. They are not of the ordinary class of public charities, where

there is no charity. No one would be so hard hearted as to set the claims of poor lunatics at naught. Therefore, instead of obliging trustees and medical officers to come to the bar of the house, year after year, to importune for what the unfortunate have through their legal protectors a right to demand, it is disgraceful to put off and put away the petitions and not promptly furnish precisely what may be required, on proper official representation.

To give a history of the Maine Insane Hospital would be like sending coals to New Castle. It is located at Augusta, the seat of government, and has been managed with fidelity from the beginning. There was said to be a loose screw at one period, under the administration of Dr. Knapp; but what that was, is effaced from recollection, and hence it is presumed to have been nothing of importance.

The price of board is only two dollars and a half a week.—Cheap enough. Benevolent bequests have contributed to the means of a library, and from the general tenor of the document, prosperity reigns throughout. The expenditures for the year preceding the report, were $21,008.80; and the receipts balanced the outgoes.

A main feature in their annual reports, is the medical superintendent's views, acts and opinions.

Health and prosperity have characterized the hospital the past season. As every where else, the insane are on the increase, and the State of Maine has its proportion of the unfortunate. The year was commenced with one hundred and fifty-five patients;—viz., eighty males and sixty-nine females. One hundred and forty were admitted in 1856, and one hundred and fourteen discharged,—an evidence of the care devolving on the physician. His success in treatment was as follows:

Fifty-four recovered; twenty-two were improved; nineteen remained *in statu quo*, and nineteen died. From the foundation of the institution, sixteen years, the whole number of admissions has been 1,708, and 1,518 of them were discharged.

From these statistical data, the medical superintendent, Henry M. Harlow, M. D., comments with satisfaction upon the attentions the subjects of the hospital have received, and the kind efforts of the good and philanthropic to contribute to their intellectual and moral comfort as well as physical wants, not forgetting to give the legislature ample credit for all it has done to ameliorate the melancholy condition of those unhappy beings placed under his care.

The real fact of the matter, according to our view of the subject, is this. Instead of thanking the members for small favors, grudgingly meted out, their constituents would be justified in sending men in their places of more enlarged views of what is due to afflicted, reason-bereft humanity.

Dr. Harlow has nothing to say about the theory or proper remedies for insanity. This gives us a high opinion of his discretion. It is one of the weaknesses of young appointees to make an extra display of wise opinions of their own, in reference to what should be done, —and close by quotations from Pinel and every body else in Europe who has written upon mental aberration, till even that kind of display is no longer original. There has been a gratifying improvement in these annual documents, the last few years, quite noticeable, — a natural result of experience and calm reflection. When there is something actually new, then promulgate the intelligence, that the world may have the benefit of the discovery.

Dr. Harlow has a responsible position; but he fills it with honor to himself and honor to the profession to which he belongs, and the people are perfectly satisfied. Kindness of heart, and that sympathy which is a solace to those in trouble from any cause, are instrumentalities of immense value to a medical practitioner, whether in private or public practice. Without those qualities, his learning is less serviceable, because he fails to inspire that degree of confidence and hope, which is more potent than drugs, and of greater weight in his professional character than diplomas from a hundred universities.

English Medical Books. — For years, the London publishers have not sent out in their circulars, announcements of fewer medical and surgical productions than at the present time. The solid authors, — those who had the qualification for writing, and a reputation to insure a sale of what they wrote, —have disappeared, with a few solitary exceptions. Dr. Marshall Hall is identified with the school of persevering authors. He never distinguished himself by appearing in borrowed plumes. Whatever he has given to the archives of medicine, has been his own. Like Humboldt, he still contributes largely, but it is evident he is an aged man.

One of the last books of any interest to physicians, in England, is on the Disease of

the Ear, by Dr. Nottingham. At home, it is possible some works, as mariners speak of vessels, may be on the stocks. Nothing of scientific moment, however, has been launched for months, that could claim much originality. We consider the publications of the American Medical Association as exhibiting the best specimens of the medical mind in the United States. All articles in these volumes have been prepared with extreme care, and without receiving the approbation of a committee eminently qualified to sit in judgment upon them, they could not appear under the sanction and patronage of the Association.

The Boston market is certainly an inviting one for publishers to send their issues to. It is certainly quite bare, and strangers are astonished that ordinary medical books are not to be had, always, in the city.

Professional Pleasantries.

A witty druggist, on a cold night, last winter, was awakened by a terrible rapping at the door. Going down he found a poor devil who wanted to purchase a dose of salts. The shop was entered, the dose prepared, and half a dime put into the drawer. "How much did you make by that operation?" asked his wife, as he got into bed. "Four cents," was the reply. "A shame it is," returned the irritated dame, "for a man to disturb your rest just for a dose of salts." "Recollect, my love," said the druggist, "that one dose of salts will disturb the man's rest more than it has mine; and reflect, that these little inconveniences always work well in time."

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

There is very uniform good health throughout the United States.

A fatal mistake has occurred at Providence, R. I., in giving a dose of medicine. Mrs. Brown administered Croton oil to her infant from a phial which she supposed to contain castor oil. Medical assistance was immediately procured, but it was of no avail.

A paper entitled, *What is Instinct— What is Mind?* in the March number of the St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal, by Wm. Garwood, M. D., of that city, is exceedingly creditable to the author. That is what is wanted in the periodical medical literature— something fresh, earnest, and suitable for intellectual food.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, APRIL 22, 1857.

The Great Sin of Cities. — Such was the demand for a number of the English Quarterly Review, some few years ago, on account of a paper of uncommon vigor, on Public Prostitution, that the article was reprinted in a pamphlet of more than fifty octavo pages, and extensively circulated, both in Europe and America. It was really nothing but a critical examination of the celebrated work, by Duchatelet, — *De la Prostitution dans la Ville de Paris*, — written with a boldness of expression that roused the moral sense of reflecting people, in the various ranks of society, who, for the first time in their lives, discovered that the subject could be discussed without polluting their lips; and civilization and religion demanded some efforts to save the nations from the moral, to say nothing of a physical taint, diffused extensively over the habitable globe, through the universality of the vice of prostitution.

"Miseries of Prostitution," by J.Beard Talbot; "Prostitution in London," and letters in the *Morning Chronicle*, on "the Metropolitan Poor," were brought into prominent notice, about the same period, and a spectator would have supposed, from the loud bursts of virtuous indignation which those publications called forth, that a mighty regeneration of the whole earth had already commenced, and all the brothels in Great Britain, certainly, were immediately to be converted into eleemosynary institutions for penitent Magdalens, while the other sex, to a man, would eschew the devil, and flee from the temptations and seductive influence he has devised for putting their consciences to sleep.

Great calms invariably come after great storms. Any one who has been in London, Liverpool, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Dublin, Belfast, and other cities of Her Majesty's realms, would be satisfied that the excitement called into activity by the reviewer of M. Parent Duchatelet, has passed by, and this is the predicted calm. In other words, things go on in the old way, and prostitution still exists, with all its attendant miseries, degradations, and wicked appliances, as before the Quarterly sounded the tocsin of national alarm. Further: human beings have multiplied since that eventful epoch of literary fright, and prostitutes have multiplied, also, in a corresponding ratio.

So much for Great Britain and her dependencies. As for France, it may be truly said, "what is bred in the bone stays long in the flesh." It could no more be suppressed, even by the government, if so disposed, than an edict of the sovereign would keep stars from shining in the firmament.

This, then, is one of the penalties of civilization, in the crude philosophy of a savage; the imperfection of the religious system of the Christians, argues the dis-

ciple of Mahomet; and a visitation due to unhallowed propensities and evil actions, wherever tolerated, it is conceded by all who have a thought respecting the dignity of humanity, the weight of man's moral obligations to God and his fellow-man, in whatever position he occupies in society.

It being conceded, long ago, that prostitution accompanies commerce, and that neither moral suasion, appeals to the religious sentiment, tread-mills, jails, whipping-posts, bastinado or prisons, have abated the nuisance in the slightest degree, the French abandoned all these theoretical specifics for that particular crime against the moral sense, and regulated what they could not control. In short, France, Belgium and Holland, by their municipal authorities, actually license harlots, as they do ordinary shop-keepers, and from the revenue derived from that source, defray the expense of a sanitary supervision, — a kind of systematic medical police examination of the prostitutes, at short intervals, for the ostensible purpose of ascertaining whether they are free from disease.

All this is very revolting to those who have not been in those countries, and become familiar with the working of the law. In England, however, the policy is entirely different, and parliament contemplates, with becoming horror, the dreadful character of this sin of cities, without lifting a finger, either to limit or suppress its influence. By winking at a demoralization beyond the reach of crown officers, and too formidable for parish beadles, prostitution runs riot wherever British commerce thrives.

Mohammedan countries, embracing in their ample fold two hundred millions of human beings, have kept that monster curse of Christian cities under their feet. Whenever the vice peers out in Turkey, Syria, Egypt, Persia, and their dependencies, their faith sustains them against the seductions of prostitution. Polygamy, with which they are abundantly reproached, — the very essence of barbarism, by which one sex is absolutely cheated out of the social advantages accorded to them by an advanced Christian civilization, — is the theme of those who teach us what are believed to be the natural and inalienable rights of women; and, in their animadversions upon the domestic arrangements of the bigoted worshippers at the shrine of the false Prophet, seem to be unmindful of the enormous ulcer eating into the vitals of ourselves.

With an increase of population in the United States unparalleled in the history of other nations, the vices of all the world have come in and mingled themselves, as tares among the wheat. All the focal points of American commerce, as New York, Boston, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Chicago, San Francisco, &c., &c., beyond present recollection, are becoming excessively corrupt in the aggregation of the vice of prostitution. It is just what it ever was — and will always remain the same. Where the police exactions are not remarkably rigid, thefts, robberies and murders are concealed in the dens and hiding-holes of these out-casts. Let them be ever so cautious in their criminalities, circumspect in their outward show of hypocrisy, and deceptive at heart, in passing for what they cannot be, honest and industrious, — prostitutes and those who court their company invariably fall from one stage of disgrace to another, till at last, disease, foul and cruel as the grave, seizes them with the grip of a voracious monster, and crushes them forever.

Where is the remedy? That is the anxious question. We are rapidly approaching the worst forms of the old sin of Europe. Why, it is appalling to realize the vast number of females in the United States given up to this encroaching vice, which neither statesmen, the clergy, nor the legislature have ever even checked in the slightest degree.

What can the medical profession do towards relieving society of this vice? is a grave inquiry.

Those places where the municipal stringency confines prostitution within extremely narrow boundaries, and restrains every violation of decorum, even to dance halls, which are lairs where the lioness lies in waiting for prey, sailors positively dislike. Jack will not go where all the females are ladies, quite beyond his breathing atmosphere. When ships of war, on returning home from long cruises on distant seas, arrive in some particular ports, they flee from it by the first conveyance, to where things are more to their liking. To meet this emergency, a few years since, six hundred females, from various points of compass, were in waiting for a ship, to escort the crew, and present them with the freedom of a city, which was denied them where they disembarked. A shocking standard of morals this, but it is nevertheless the way of the world, and cannot be denied; yet it is not to be mentioned above a breath.

There are harbors where it is quite difficult to ship sailors enough to man a schooner; and the owners are actually obliged to send to those towns where there is a tolerance of easy virtue, to get their men. So true it is that the crows go where the carrion is.

Can physicians propose any remedy? How far are governments guilty of the violation of a fundamental law of morality, when they allow abandoned women to follow armies, and grant them rations for subsistence in the depths of their infamy? What a book might be written on this one theme. Statesmen, however, have a ready apology for the tolerance of customs.

Thus we have fearlessly laid open a deep-seated ulcer, and exposed the destructive character of the gangrene within. Our correspondents are invited to propose a new and effectual method of treatment.

Plea of Insanity. — For years, in all the great criminal cases, from murder, the most atrocious in the catalogue of crimes, down to simple larceny, the apology of insanity, set up by the counsel for the defendant, has been used to excite the sympathy of a jury, and sometimes, perhaps, successfully. Forgery could not be smuggled through a tribunal, so as to set the culprit free, in New York; but there was no weight of

medical testimony wanting, to have accomplished the design, had the twelve men, staunch and true, believed the declarations of the learned gentlemen on the stand, or been influenced in their judgment by the social position and scientific reputation of those who explained their new views upon moral insanity.

A murderer has been convicted, in Boston, for taking the life of an officer in the State Prison. From early youth, he appears to have been perverse, and his villainies increased with his years. But, in this trial, there was a reproduction of the convenient reason for excusing the prisoner, or, at least, for softening the penalty of a violated law, because he could not have been in the possession of a sound mind. Experts were called in, and from their conclusions, after hearing others, seeing the unhappy wretch, and listening to his conversation, Dr. Jarvis, for one, said he was either laboring under a false impression, in regard to the poisoning of his food, or he feigned it. Cater, the prisoner, was permitted to make a statement. This was an indulgence, on the part of the Court, highly creditable to their humanity; it indicated entire willingness to elicit extenuating information, even from the criminal himself. His story was an irregular train of propositions, the leading one being this, — that his prison food had been drugged. Before being in the State Prison, at Charlestown, he had been in the House of Correction, at South Boston. While there, he persisted in saying he was treated in the same unjustifiable manner. At Charlestown, repeated complaints of the condition of the food, was made by him, he said, to the officers; but, as no redress was found, he resolved to do something by which he might be brought before the people, so that he could reach the public ear, and thus remedy the abuses meted out to the inmates of that penal institution.

Cater was convicted, and will be executed, beyond a doubt. Now, the question arises, is he insane upon that one point, — in regard to food, — or on all subjects? What ameliorating circumstances ought to be considered by the executive? are there any? It is as clear a case of moral insanity as that of Huntington, the forger. Medical experts in Massachusetts, however, are more cautious in giving opinions, than some others in the world. Had they sworn point blank that Cater was insane, the spectators would have looked upon them as lunatics themselves. But, admitting Cater, or any other offender against the laws, to be unsound on one point, or hallucinated, should it screen him from the pains and penalties of atoning to society for all and any crimes a vicious, unprincipled, wicked man may choose to commit?

The Horse's Age shown by the Teeth. — Veterinary Surgery is certainly beginning to be recognized among us as an important branch of business. A complete knowledge of it depends upon an accurate scientific mastery of the anatomy of the noble animal, and a familiar acquaintance with his physiological laws. There have been the *Complete Farrier: — Every Man his own Horse Doctor,* — and perhaps some other vulgarly constructed treatises on the diseases of the common domestic animals; but nothing here at the East, that approached to the dignity of accurate pathological advancement in veterinary practice, till Dr. Dadd commenced his publications. Besides a splendid volume on the anatomy of the horse, with colored plates illustrating the myology, and a beautiful lithographic drawing of the brain, he has given to the public another large sheet, containing the dentalogy of the lower jaw of the horse. The main object is to show the appearance of the teeth, from the temporary set of the colt to the strongly developed incisors at eight years of age. All the intermediate conditions of the manducatory organs are shown, true to life, and by simply consulting the plate, a mere tyro may determine the age of any horse between the age of one year and eight — and possibly beyond.

Medical Reform. — An attentive reader of the periodical medical literature of England as well as of this country, must have observed the perpetual theme running through the journals, urging medical reforms. Now what is desired, which, if granted by competent authority, would be satisfactory to the dissatisfied?

A principal feature discoverable in all the complaints, is this, that there is toleration — too much — which is not the boon required. No, the really clamorous advocates for medical reform are precisely like ordinary politicians, who proclaim that the panacea for political evils is the triumph of their particular party. So it is with the noisy, uneasy, disturbing efforts of those who are loudest and craziest for medical reforms. Put everything down which they dislike, and disfranchise men because they have the independence not to identify themselves with disorganizers, and then there would be peace, provided those very clear-sighted interpreters of the public will could have the control.

Those who are the best prepared by education for the practice of the profession, will succeed, while those who are deficient, and make up in pretension what is actually wanting in knowledge, must necessarily pass for what they are worth, and no more, in any intelligent community. Let the mischief-making sticklers for reform first reform themselves. When that is accomplished, their views will have undergone a singular revolution in regard to others.

No penal statutes can be enforced in the United States against persons practising any system of medicine which may differ from some other with which the majority are most familiar, or in which they repose the most confidence. If a novel kind of medication is patronized, no law could be sustained an hour which should forbid the sick from taking prescriptions from whom

they choose; and yet impracticable, crotchety individuals in this age of common sense, are urging the enactment of laws which shall recognize one kind of medical practice exclusively, and interdict all others under grevious penalties. That spirit of intolerance is too late in the day to command a hearing in halls of legistion. In fact, the determination of those who indiscreetly imagined they could keep themselves up, by putting all others down, not of their household of faith, broke down in the New England States years ago, and the few protective laws the profession had the influence to have passed, are quite obsolete.

An individual determination to be qualified by all the appliances of modern science, to meet the emergencies and responsibilities of an elevated profession, is the only medical reform that would meet with unequivocal commendation, reconcile the various schools with each other, and establish harmony where there has been anarchy and confusion to the injury of them all.

Surgical Instruments. — A degree of perfection has been attained, in this country, in the manufacture of all instruments required by surgical operators, as gratifying to them as it is creditable to the mechanical ingenuity of American cutlers. Occasionally, some modification of an old principle is observed in French and English cases; but absolutely new things in the form of knives, hooks, tubes, saws, and the like, are extremely rare. Newly devised instruments are quite as frequently originated here as in Europe, although the foreign copiest rarely gives credit for the invention. The late Dr. Warren found a needle of his own devising, at Paris, which was claimed to have originated there, and yet it had been in use at the Massachusetts General Hospital, and in the private practice of the inventor, years before. Of all auxiliary surgical apparatus, more fortunes have been made by trusses and syringes, than by all other contrivances known to the craft from the days of Hippocrates to Anno Domini 1857. One presses in the obtruding viscera, and the other is for ejecting fluids drawn into a barrel. Nothing can be more simple, and yet both have been so variously altered as to secure new privileges from the Patent Office, and fortune-making is as prosperous and certain as ever with these primitive instruments.

American Medical Association. — A brilliant assemblage of medical gentlemen may be expected at Nashville, Tennessee, the ensuing month. Communications of exceeding value are to be presented, and among them some, perhaps, that relate especially to epidemic diseases. Medical statistics and medical topography cannot fail of enriching the medical literature of the country. The published transactions of this learned society should be in every medical library in the United Stales. Each year gives increased importance to the early labors of the members. Whoever can should have the series complete.

The known hospitality of the South will be nobly sustained by the profession at Nashville. Their ambition to serve their friends will not allow them to omit anything that promises to enhance the pleasure of a visit to the capitol city of Tennessee.

Medical Society of Alabama. — *President*, J. C. Nott, M. D.; W. G. Merriweather, M. D., G. W. Hills, M. D., and W. C. Ashe, M. D., *Vice-Presidents;* F. A. Ross, M. D., *Cor. Sec.;* R. Miller, M. D., and A. H. Smith, M. D., *Rec. Secs.;* W. H. Anderson, M. D., *Treas.;* A. F. Alexander, M. D., *Orator;* and J. M. Williams, M. D., *Alternate.*

DEATHS.

In Texas, Dr. John Sneed, formerly of Murfreesborough, Tenn. The "Southern Medical Journal" says he was a man of superior talents, and many good qualities of heart.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 11.

Owen Douglas 7 days, Mary E. Nicholls 28 do., Margaret O'Brien 1 mo., Patrick Fitzgerald 13 mos., Charles H. Graham 19 do., Julia Donahoe 5 do., Mary Coleman 38 yrs., John Foley 4 do., Abigail Coffee 33 do., James Finnegan 11 do., Moody Abbott 51 do., Julius E. Stewart 7 do., Collins Preston 48 do., Mary J. Hall 9 do., Thomas Cooper 25 do., Frank E. Griswold 5 do., Hannah Moffatt 50, Duffenia Anthony 40 do., Margaret Collins 5 do., Ann Brady 60 do., Deborah Chute 28 do., Harriet C. Lord 27 do., Wm. Flynn 8 mos., Mary Barrett 5 do., Sarah E. Cook 1 mo., Margaret Hayes 17 mos., Mary A. Spearman 26 years, James Messer 28 do., Serena L. West 5 do., Jacob H. Bowers 25 do., Mary O'Connell 28 do., Charlotte Regan 32 do., John Collins 49 do., Margaret Early 4 do., Walter Roberts 21 days, Daniel Foley 21 do., child of L. Bartlett 1 day, Mary A. McGue 13 mos., Jeremiah Norwood 2 do., Mary A. Grady 6 ys., John L. Miller 9 do., Hannah Quinlan 7 do., Mary C. Burrill 34 do., John Casey 32 do., Ellen Birmingham 30 do., Mary Peterson, 23 do., Maria Johnson 64 do., Rebecca Eaton 71 do., John Caldwell 41 do., James S. Phalen 18 do., Benj. W. Griffin 4 mos., Timothy Flynn 1 day, Mary Healy 7 years, Mary Murphy 28 do., Lucien Baldwin, 33 do., Charles H. Abbott 9 do., Grace Knowlton 4 do., Mary C. Ryan 2 do., Alice Chandler 60 do., Martha J. Turner, Mary Fleming 52 do., Joel J. Holden 8 mos., Henry J. Flood 19 do., Wm. Mahoney 27 do., John Curtis 19 mos., Edward K. Wise 16 do.

Diseases.—Accident 3, apoplexy 2, congestion of brain 2, consumption 14, croup 2, infantile diseases 2, puerperal do. 2, unknown do. 3, scarlet fever 13, hooping cough 2, disease of heart 3, intemperance 2, inflammation of lungs 4, marasmus 2, other diseases 1 each, 6. Total 65. 49 were born in United States, 11 in Ireland, and 5 in other foreign places.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE

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ANCIENT MEDICINE.

BY W. T. GRANT, M. D.

In the preparation of an article published during the past summer in the *Atlanta Medical and Surgical Journal*, captioned *Diseases of the Bible, &c.*, I had frequent occasion to refer to the ancient historians, Tacitus, Herodotus, Thucydides and Josephus, for the purpose of substantiating certain conclusions at which I arrived in the course of my investigations upon that subject. In examining those works, I found a great deal of very interesting medical matter, and I have since concluded to give a condensed account of it to the Profession. I conceive that it presents many points of very great interest, and also demonstrates most incontestably the antiquity of a number of our remedial appliances. I am not ignorant of the fact that works have been published upon this subject — ANCIENT MEDICINE; but as such works possess but little interest for the generality of medical men, *they* have but a limited circulation, and a monograph upon the subject would therefore, from its very *brevity*, be far more interesting.

The earlier lights of the profession were few in number, and with some of them we are sufficiently well acquainted to need no notice in this place. The practitioners of Medicine in early times were undoubtedly as numerous, in proportion to the population, as they are now. "Every great family, as well as every city, must needs (as Herodotus expresses it) swarm with the faculty." The medical men of Egypt were renowned in those early times; Cyrus had a physician sent him from Egypt, and Darius always had Egyptian physicians with him. But of all, I propose to give a sketch of one only—Damocedes. "He was a physician of Crotona, and the most skilful practitioner of his time." Damocedes, it is presumable, lived in Crotona during the earlier portion of his life, but was induced to remove thence by "the austere manner of his father, which becoming insupportable, he left him and went to Ægina. In the first year of his residence at this place, he excelled the most skilful of the medical profession, without having had any regular education, and, indeed, without the common instruments of the art. His reputation, however, was so great, that, in the *second* year, the inhabitants of Ægina, by general consent, engaged his services at the price of one talent (nearly one thousand dollars of our currency). In the *third* year, the Athenians retained him at a salary of one hundred minæ (about sixteen hundred dollars;) and in the *fourth* year, Polycrates engaged to employ him at two talents. His residence was then fixed at Samos; and to this man the physicians of Crotona are considerably indebted for the reputation which they enjoy; for at this period, in point of medical celebrity, the physicians of Crotona held the first, and those of Cyrene the next place." (Herodotus 3, 131.)

We have made the above quotation from Herodotus, not only for the purpose of sketching the character of Damocedes, but also to add more evidence in demonstration of the fact that physicians were quite abundant in former times.

Herodotus mentions two cases in which Damocedes was engaged with success, and which are of much interesst. The first was in the person of Darius, who, in leaping from his horse on one occasion, "twisted his foot with so much violence that the ankle bone was quite dislocated." This was a dislocation of the ankle-joint,—or, to be more surgical, it was a luxation of this joint. Darius had some Egyptian physicians with him at the time, who, however, increased the evil by twisting and otherwise violently handling the affected part. He was in very great pain, which, indeed, was so extreme, that he "passed seven days and as many nights without sleep." And on the

eighth day Damocedes was mentioned to him as being a skilful physician, for whom he sent immediately; "who applied such medicines and strong fomentations as were customary in Greece, by which means Darius, who began to despair of ever recovering the entire use of his foot, was not only enabled to sleep, but in a short time perfectly restored to health."

The second case occurred in Atossa, the daughter of Cyrus, and wife of Darius, who "had an ulcer on the breast, which, finally breaking, spread itself considerably." Damocedes succeeded in curing it, but by what means, we are not informed.

While upon this subject, we *may* introduce also the following two cases: Militiades, the Athenian general, in getting over a fence, in some way dislocated his femur, and never recovered from it. It mortified, and growing worse, finally killed him. (Herodotus 6, 134–136.)

The following case may be believed or not, as the reader likes; I give it as I find it: Hegeiestratus was in prison, in Sparta, and bound in irons. He was threatened with death, and preferred any means of escape to such an event. Therefore, procuring a knife, he cut off as much (one-half) of his foot as would enable him to extricate himself from his irons; after which, he dug out of prison, and made his escape to Tegea. "When his wound was healed, he *procured himself a wooden foot*, and became an avowed *enemy* of Sparta."

Of the Practice of Medicine, Herodotus gives us a very complete although concise account. He says, that among the Babylonians they had no distinct profession of medicine, but in case of sickness, pursued the following course. Such as were diseased among them, they carried into some public square, and every one who passed by, had to interrogate the sick as to the nature of their disease, and if he had either been afflicted with a similar disease himself, or seen its operation upon another, he may communicate the process by which his own recovery was effected, or by which, in any other instance, he knew the disease to be removed. And no one was allowed to pass by an afflicted person in silence, or without inquiry into the nature of his complaint.

Among the Egyptians, medicine was practised as follows: "One physician is confined to the study and management of one disease; there are, of course, a great number who practise this art; some attend to disorders of the eyes, others to those of the head; some take care of the teeth, others are conversant with all diseases of the bowels; whilst many attend to the cure of maladies which are less conspicuous." Our author says that the Egyptians used "purges, vomits, and clysters, for three days successively every month," as a matter of health, under the impression that the diseases of the body are occasioned by the different elements received as food. He offers himself the opinion that "changes of all kinds, and those in particular of the seasons, promote and occasion the maladies of the body."

Herodotus mentions but two cases in which the special senses were affected—one the son of Crœsus, affected with dumbness; the other, a soldier named Epizilus, who was suddenly and inexplicably struck blind in the midst of a battle.

Josephus makes frequent mention of dumb and blind persons, but does not give any particulars. He says that when David besieged Jerusalem, the citizens of the place, in contempt, placed upon the walls of the city, in full view of David's army, all their lame and dumb and blind, from which we may justly infer that their numbers were considerable.

Tacitus introduces a very interesting case of blindness, which I am inclined, from the description, to think was Pterygium. It also falsifies the assertion of Pettigrew that the royal gift of healing originated in England with Edward the Confessor. I will quote the case in Tacitus' own language. Vespasian, the Roman Emperor, was spending some months at Alexandria, when "a man of mean condition, born in that city, had lost his sight by a defluxion on his eyes. He presented himself before Vespasian, and falling prostrate on the ground, implored the Emperor to administer a cure for his blindness. The request was, that the Emperor, with his spittle, would condescend to moisten the poor man's face and the balls of his eyes. Another man who had a paralytic hand, begged that the Emperor would tread on the part affected. Vespasian smiled at a request so absurd and wild. The wretched objects persisted to implore his aid. He dreaded the ridicule of a vain attempt; but the importunity of the men, and the crowd of flatterers, prevailed upon the Prince not entirely to disregard their petition. He ordered the physicians to consider among themselves whether the blindness of the one and the paralytic affection of the other were within the reach of human assistance. The result of the consultation was, that the organs

of sight were not so injured, but that, by removing the film, or cataract, the patient might recover. As to the disabled limb, by proper applications and invigorating medicines, it was not impossible to restore it to its former tone. Accordingly, in the presence of a prodigious multitude, all erect with expectation, the Emperor advanced with an air of serenity, and hazarded the experiment. The paralytic hand recovered its functions, and the blind man saw the light of the sun."

In regard to Obstetrics, Herodotus is not so full as upon other subjects. He *merely* mentions three cases—one a case of still-born child; another, a case of twins; and the third, a case of abortion from violence. It occurred in the person of the sister and wife of Cambyces, and was produced by violence he used towards her.

Tacitus mentions a similar case to the last, and which was likewise fatal. It was Poppæa, the wife of Nero. When she was advanced in pregnancy, for some trivial cause, he gave her a kick on her womb, from which she died. We presume that abortion was the result in this case, and was the cause of her death, although we are not informed that it was so.

We may gather from a remark of Tacitus that abortive remedies were quite common in ancient times. It appears that Octavia, the wife of Nero, was much addicted to adulterous commerce. "Nero issued a proclamation, declaring the guilt of Octavia, and added that, by the use of medicines to procure abortion, she had thrown a veil over her adulterous connections, and the facts were said to be clearly proved."

Josephus mentions *only* that abortion could be produced, and adds the punishments that were inflicted by law upon any one who procured the abortion.

We may, while upon this part of our subject, introduce the following from Herodotus, in proof of the existence of hysterical affections. I believe that obstetricians consider that these affections are the result of our modern refinements; but this opinion is refuted by Herodotus. The Budini were a rude and barbarous people. In their country there was a "large lake, with a marsh surrounded with reeds. In this lake are found otters, beavers, and other wild animals who have square snouts: of these the skins are used to border the garments; *and their testicles are esteemed useful in hysterical diseases.*"—*South. Med. & Surg. Journ.*

SUPPURATIVE ARTHIRTIS.

BY H. WATSON, M. D.

In March, 1826, George Wells, a healthy farmer boy, about fourteen years of age, wounded his knee slightly, with an axe, and by advice of a man calling himself a physician, the wound was dressed by applying a piece of salt fat pork to it, confining it with a bandage. Some six days afterwards, I found him suffering with a severe pain in the knee, and a violent sympathetic fever; the whole joint was hot, very much swollen, and shining like a glass bottle. On removing the dressing and attempting to flex the limb a little, a stream of sero-purulent matter issued from the wound, as nearly as I can recollect, a full teacupful. Dressing the wound with a plaster of simple cerate, I covered the whole joint with a large blister, enveloping the limb for six inches above and below the knee with a thick bran poultice, opiates were administered freely, and such nourishment as he could be induced to take. Under this treatment he became more comfortable, but the purulent discharge continued to be very copious for more than a month, averaging each day a half a pint or more of thick yellow pus. On examination with a probe, there was no difficulty in passing it through the joint and several inches in other directions; the constitutional symptoms were proportionably severe. Restlessness, chills, colliquative sweats, and emaciation which ultimately became alarming, were combated with opiates, astringents, quinine, cordials and animal broths. After two or three weeks had elapsed, granulations could be discovered in the lips of the wound, which at length became prominent, protruding like a fungus — the discharge of pus, however, diminishing in proportion to their growth. These changes were accompanied with a gradual subsidence of the hectic, and I had the satisfaction of seeing him fully restored to health in eight or ten weeks after I first took charge of him. The protruding granulations were easily repressed, and the sinuses up and down the limb were gradually obliterated by the application of compresses. While this process of granulation was going on, I every day flexed and extended the limb, thus giving some motion to the joint, and enjoined upon the attendants to do the same occasionally in my absence. For several months the joint was less flexible than before the injury, but by use, at length this stiffness was overcome, and so far as comfort or use is concerned, the limb

is as perfect as the other. There is, however, some deformity apparent to the eye, a deep depression exists where the wound was, with a corrugation of the skin, owing, doubtless, to the absorption of the fleshy parts and an adhesion of the skin to the bone.

The second case occurred in Springfield, Massachusetts. In the winter of 1847, I was requested to meet Dr. S——, of that city, in a case of acute rheumatism, as the messenger informed me. On my arrival, I found the patient, a fine little boy of about seven years of age, in a perfect frenzy of excitement from pain and sympathetic fever, the countenance expressed the most intense suffering, he was bathed in sweat, which actually dropped from his face and hair, the pulse counted 140, and was sharp and wirey ; his parents informed me that he had not slept five minutes at any one time, and had not been moved from the posture he was then in, for more than four days, and that any attempts to move him produced such dreadful screams that they were obliged to desist. On raising the sheet, which was thrown lightly over the limb, I found the leg flexed some fifteen or twenty degrees on the thigh, and the whole limb from the ankle to the hip very much swollen, and about the knee a good deal discolored and shining. On inquiring if there had been any injury, the parents denied any knowledge of an accident, but the little patient himself at once told me that while playing with his mate in the street, he had fallen and struck his knee on a small stone, which hurt him so severely that he was scarcely able to get home. Very little attention seems to have been paid to his complaints, although the servants said that after the accident he wholly refused to use the limb, and no physician was called until four or five days after. Dr. S. pronounced it a case of acute rheumatism, which he said was then prevalent in the city, advised a covering of pelisse wadding and the use of Tinct. Actia and camphorated Tinct. Opium, equal parts, in small doses, regularly. This plan of treatment was continued till I saw him some five or six days later. On examination I could find no evidence of supuration at that time sufficient to warrant an opening, but had little doubt there would be soon. I persuaded Dr. S. to combine with his treatment the use of enough sulphate of morphine, to allay the excessive sympathetic irritation and pain, so that he might have some sleep, and to apply blisters and poultices to the affected limb. Springfield being about sixteen miles from my residence, I stayed through the night with the family, and was gratified to see the little fellow sleep several hours in comparative ease, and I left him in the morning, lying upon a fresh, clean bed, with a calm countenance and a pulse of 110 in a minute. After this I saw the patient only once in four or five days—Dr. Smith, of Springfield, (afterwards lost in the Norwalk catastrophe) having been associated with the attending physician in prescribing for the case. An opening was made into the joint a few days after, and there was a copious discharge of pus and sanies for several weeks, extensive sinuses formed above and below the joint, dissecting the muscles, and requiring openings in various places, and the poor little sufferer became almost a skeleton under the exhausting effects of the discharge, and the accompanying hectic. It at length became a question with the other physicians, whether a removal of the limb would not be necessary for the preservation of his life, and at their request an eminent professor of Anatomy and Surgery in one of our large Universities, was invited to see him in consultation ; he said there was extensive disorganization of the joint, an absorption of the cartilages, and probably caries of the femur, and perhaps of the tibia, he thought his life in great danger under any treatment—recovery with anchylosis the best possible event ; the preservation of life at the expense of his limb, would in his opinion be a very fortunate termination. Conversing with the parents I found them very unwilling to allow an amputation — my own opinion about the ultimate result was less unfavorable, and I was very well satisfied to trust the case to time, soothing topical applications, and the liberal use of wine, cordials, anodynes and food—the event justified my anticipations, the local symptoms became less severe, the constitutional affection gradually subsided. One after another the abscesses and sinuses in the limb healed, at least in part, and he recovered his flesh and strength pretty rapidly. Instead of anchylosis the mobility of the joint was preserved imperfectly, as the leg could be flexed on the thigh to a right angle and extended so as to form an angle of 135 or 140 degrees without causing much pain. By persevering efforts the use of the joint was materially increased, and although he has never acquired the power of making the limb quite straight, he now walks without a staff or any other support, and can flex that limb perfectly as the other. Considerable deformity is apparent about the knee upon inspection, and there are still some openings above the knee surrounded with callous edges, through which a little thin ichor escapes, and

several little spicula of bone have passed out at these openings.

What the morbid changes were which took place in this case, it is probably not possible to determine with accuracy, but that the whole joint was for several weeks in a state of high inflammation, involving the synovial lining and the cartilages, seems to be apparent. I have long been of the opinion that by a proper course of treatment, and especially by the persevering use of motion of the joint, at the proper time, anchylosis may commonly be avoided, at least in a considerable proportion of cases of supurative arthirtis.—*Med. Independ.*

OLD STANDING DISLOCATION OF THE HUMERUS: NEW MODE OF REDUCTION.

BY THOMAS WORMALD, ESQ.,

St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

[A very corpulent woman, aged 50, was admitted into St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on 26th August, 1856, having dislocated her shoulder six weeks previously.]

It was observable that Mr. Wormald required agreat deal of force to bring the articulation back to its proper or normal condition. The first and chief point which he tried to secure was *a fixed state of the scapula;* for if this bone continue, as usual, to move about, he believes it impossible to get the glenoid cavity into the proper position for receiving the head of the humerus, as the latter bone merely pushes the scapula before it. M. Wormald accordingly dispenses with the counter-extending sheet or girth, commonly placed round the chest. Having placed the patient under the *full* influence of chloroform (for the earlier stages of chloroform, by causing muscular spasm, rather frustrate than aid the endeavors of the surgeon), he was enabled to make a full examination of the parts about the joint. He discovered the round head of the humerus further forward under the pectoralis than he had ever previously observed it: most probably far at the inner side of the coracoid process. A fixed condition of the scapula was next obtained, by a plan at once novel and ingenious. A strong bandage was placed, like a soldier's belt, across the shoulder, and meeting behind: this, by using strong force against the upper border of the scapula (such as bringing the opposite end of the bandage uuder the surgeon's heel), at once fixes the scapula. A bent splint was now applied to the arm and forearm, the latter being flexed so as to relax some of the muscles (biceps and brachialis anticus) and to allow more easily of the necessary manipulations in a very fat woman. A second band, or long towel, was then carried round the arm, and a careful manipulative effort made to draw the head of the bone backwards and downwards; and, when it was assumed that the head was below the coracoid process, then forwards. Some crumbling or crackling sensations were first felt on Mr. Wormald commencing the former steps of the manipulation; this was due, in all probability, to the breaking down of old adhesions. The head of the bone was next felt to move gradually towards the glenoid cavity,which remained quite fixed. The adhesions had been six weeks growing; yet, by now modifying the manipulations a little, the bone slipped in with a noise.

As Mr. Wormald observed to his class, this dislocation is one of very frequent occurrence, though not met in practice so often as dislocation downwards into the axilla. Arguing from the analogous manipulation under chloroform in the hip joint, now so often successful, the operator may trust more perhaps to manipula tions than to what is more commonly known as the plan by forced extension and counter-extension. One of the chief points, hitherto overlooked, is to *fix the scapula*, or rather the shallow cup of the glenoid cavity, which is only half the size of the head of the humerus in the perpendicular direction, and only one-third in the transverse; but to which all the endeavors of the surgeon are directed, so that he may slip the large ball-like head of the dislocated bone into it.

From the history of this case, it seemed as if the head of the bone had been dislocated by the woman falling, while coming out of an omnibus; the arm at the time was inclined backwards, and separated from the side; the action of the muscles in front, by a secondary displacement, carried the head of the humerus higher and higher. These cases, it need scarcely be added, are very troublesome in private practice in the country, as we can seldom command all the necessary assistance, with chloroform, bandages, &c. Indeed in this instance, the woman said the bone had been "set" by a surgeon before she came in, and she thought it all right. Dislocations of the shoulder are so common that some believe them to equal in number all other dislocations put together.

The glenoid cavity is so very shallow and small, the joint is so comparatively unprotected by ligaments, and the motion of the shoulder so various and extensive, that we can only explain the fact of dislocation not occurring oftener by the singular mobility of the broad surface of the scapula. This very movableness, however, of the scapula, according to Mr. Wormald, proves also the chief obstacle to the reduction of the head of the bone—a circumstance, he believes, entirely too much overlooked in practice, and only to be obviated by some such contrivance as that first mentioned. — *Asso. Med. Jour.*

ON GUNSHOT INJURIES OF THE HANDS.

BY JOHN WYATT, ESQ.,

Coldstream Guards.

[The author relates several cases which elucidate principles of considerable importance connected with the conservative treatment of wounds of the hands. The reasons which have induced Mr. Wyatt to select these cases are: 1st, They are second to none in the anxious consideration which should always attend on their treatment.]

2. It is that part of the body, more perhaps than any other which, when afflicted with traumatic injury, will display the often miraculous reparative resources of Nature, and thus permit us to derive instruction which we may hereafter apply to injuries of more vital and concealed parts.

3. We observe, after any curtailment has occurred, in the smallest or greatest degree, with what wonderful compensatory adaptation the remaining portions are endowed. It has been said, as an aphorism, that amputation should be the last resource and even opprobrium of surgery, as death is of the practice of medicine; still, that impossibilities cannot be humanly performed, or a limb or life saved which sound experience says can no longer be preserved. In former days wounds of the hands and fingers were much dreaded, on account of the liability to tetanus; and for that and other reasons, I have no doubt that primary amputations would have been performed on three of the four cases I have adduced, and with probable recovery in all. Thanks, however, to the recorded experience of the late war, the practice of surgery is now tempered with less stern resolves; as the nature and treatment of gunshot wounds have become better understood, we place more confidence in the resources of Nature, and have become less desirous for the doubtful *eclat* of operations. It has been admitted that the type of diseases has undergone an extrordinary and almost radical change during the past five years, and that the cause for the severe treatment then employed has, consequently, long since passed away;—may we not, as practical surgeons, incline towards a similar opinion, with reference especially to gunshot wounds? for I conceive that the spoiliative and expectant systems of treatment are but the analogues of operative and conservative surgery, the *status* of which we shall improve, in proportion as we prove it to be less of an art than a science. I believe that it would be most desirable to follow the consecutive symptoms of a given disease, uncontrolled, to its termination; by that means alone we shall be able to estimate the value and force of our particular remedies.

Certain cases must have come under the cognizance of most practical surgeons during the war, where, after much deliberation with reference to the practice to be pursued in a very severe injury, the issue has been considered sufficiently doubtful to give the patient the chance of preserving his mutilated limb; and, almost contrary to all expectation, the result has proved successful. Such a case occurred to me last year. A man was wounded in the trenches by a fragment of shell, which carried away the whole of the sural vessels of one leg, fracturing at the same time the fibula in two places. He had apparently a good constitution, and, after a most anxious reflection, I decided to give the man the chance of having even a distorted limb, although it was, by several surgeons, considered almost too great a risk. The man was himself much opposed to any operation. After great care and attention he was in eleven weeks considered sufficiently recovered to undertake the voyage to England, with rather an awkward leg, it is true, but still it was one which he would have been very loth to exchange for the best substitute in cork or wood that could ever be produced. Monsieur Bandeux, the distinguished Inspector-General of the French army, who has lately made a tour of inspection through the allied camps, informed me, that it is extraordinary what an amount of preservation of limbs is now attempted, by resections, at their military hospitals, after injuries which formerly would not have been considered amenable to

such treatment, and with more than great success; for it appears that, out of twenty-nine cases of resection performed by himself, only three were fatal, which is a result, I think, sufficiently satisfactory, but they were performed in large military hospitals in France, and not in field hospitals, in position even, much less in bivouac after an action.

The more remote the seat of injury from the larger articulations, with the greater freedom, I conceive, may conservation be attempted; but, when preservation of limbs after injuries near the larger joints is attempted, the most mature deliberation is necessary; indeed, I cannot conceive a more important duty to devolve upon the military surgeon, or one requiring more experience of Nature's resources, as regards future prognosis, neither can I conceive anything so distressing as to be obliged to remove a limb which has proved useless after a *so called* cure of conservative surgery; and this contingency must always be remembered in military practice. I very much doubt if we are not always justified in attempting to preserve a portion of the hand, even after the most severe injuries; and in *Case* No. 1, detailed, I feel that we were equally warranted in attempting to preserve the phalanges; and had the constitution of the man been more vigorous, there is every reason, in my mind, to believe that the injury might have been repaired, as in *Case* No. 3, where even a greater damage was primarily inflicted. I think that, especially where the tendons are intact, notwithstanding that the metacarpal bones may be much comminuted, we should endeavor to preserve the phalanges, provided the patient's constitution is good. I must, however, confess that I believe unless the state of the wounded after an engagement can be such as to render them free from the discomforts and dangers attending frequent locomotion, that excisions of the joints of the lower extremity should rarely be performed; and this opinion I have arrived at from very practical experience during this war. What, for instance, but an untoward result could be anticipated from those wounded soldiers who, after the battles of Alma and Inkermann, were removed to Scutari, there to be placed in a crowded hospital, after a tedious voyage of several days? If it be admitted that the after treatment of excision of joints requires especial care and attention, then it is manifest, that where such cannot be obtained, it will not be desirable to venture too much in that direction. Hemorrhage after gunshot injuries in the hand, is often most difficult to control; indeed, I know of one case where amputation was advised, after deligation of the artery had first been attempted with no success. In this case pressure at the seat of injury was impossible, on account of the inflammation and sloughing which had followed; every kind of styptic was also tried in vain, and the lad had lost a large quantity of blood. Pressure was then carefully applied over the course of the radial and ulnar arteries, and, as ice could not be obtained, a syphon was constructed, by which cold water was allowed to drop perpetually on to the wound. This was continued for twelve hours, when all hermorrhage ceased, and subsequently a good recovery was made. It is also worthy of note, that during this war hardly any cases of tetanus following wounds have been reported; and as such a complication was at one time supposed to be peculiarly liable to follow injuries of the hand in military practice, how can we account for the immunity during this campaign, except from the improved system of treatment employed? Of all gunshot injuries in the neighborhood of the hand, I think the greatest danger to the subsequent recovery of the member arises from those cases in which a ball has penetrated the carpal bones alone, on account of the extensive irritation which ensues. — *Med. Times and Gaz.*

LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

For the last three or four months there has been a *buzz* among the profession in London, created by the "Mems from our London correspondent," and the "Medical gossip" of the Dublin Medical Press, which periodical, as your readers well know, is edited by the talented and renowned Jacob. All the London men declare that Jacob's wits and discretion — for he is generally a very discreet man — are leaving him; his Journal is running riot, it forms the vehicle for the out-pourings of a party named Kidd. This is the same person whom a very recent number of the Tralee Chronicle describes as "a Dr. Charles Kidd, of Kingsland, who is shortly to lead to the hymeneal altar Miss Catherine Hayes, just returned with a large fortune." "He was formerly," the same Jourual announces, "an aspirant to the hand of Jenny Lind, and is a proficient on the Irish bagpipes." "He is, moreover, the talented and *extra* ordinary London Correspondent of the Dublin Medical Press."

The London Correspondence and Medical Gossip of the "Press," weekly appears from the pen of this singular individual, and every man of note holding anything of a position has been dragged every now and then into notice. Some have stormed, some expostulated, and some have laughed, but with little effect. In the mean time, although these letters may prove amusing, the reputation of the Journal is becoming sensibly tarnished, and although Jacob may disregard the hints which are thrown out now and then, in the end he may seriously regret his temerity. Take Medical Journalism at the present moment in England, never was it in a better or more respectable footing, nor at any time, has there been that cordiality and good feeling prevailing which now so universally exists — a striking feature of the times.

A very curious circumstance occurred on New Year's day, which, so far as we are aware, is almost unparalleled : it is this : — An inquest was held on the *head of a child.* It appears this head was sent in a parcel with a letter from a female, acknowledging herself to be the mother and the murderess. The infant was newly born, but the sex was of course unknown. We have not heard what the verdict was, nor has the mother been discovered. If one were inclined to be facetious and perpetrate a *bull*, we should say this was a new way of holding an inquest on the *body* of a child. This, perhaps, ought not to excite surprise among medical jurists in Montreal, because we recollect an instance there in which an inquest was held by Mr. Coroner Jones upon a skull discovered under an old floor. A great many children are annually destroyed at birth in London, but, notwithstanding deaths thus arising, and from other causes, the population of this great city is steadily progressing, and in the course of a very few years will reach 3,000,000; it is already 2,750,000. The births for the last quarter of the year 1856, in London, amounted to 21,309, against 14,616 deaths. During the same period there were 7189 couples joyfully (?) united in the bonds of holy matrimony.

We were present at the meeting of the Zoological Society on the 13th day of January, when a paper was read upon the museums of North America, with a reference to their collections of Natural History. In the Canadas, the only one that was known to the author of the paper, was that in connection with "McGill College at Toronto." We had to come to the rescue of our native land, and especially the Natural History Society of Montreal, and gave a short summary of the museums in the Canadas. The author seemed to recollect that at Montreal, but declared its collection of birds and animals was very poor and contained nothing striking. He seemed highly delighted, however, with the Geological collection under Sir Wm. Logan's charge. Perhaps this may be a hint to the Natural History Society, to improve and augment their collection, and so far render it complete as to possess all known Canadian specimens. This might easily be affected with the assistance of such an able Naturalist as Professor Dawson. What is much wanted in the Canadas is a distinct calalogue of all known genera and species, which would prove of great assistance to students of Natural Science out there.

All the world knows Dr. Livingston, the celebrated African traveller. He is a doctor of medicine as well as a doctor of souls, and has been a perfect lion in London, for some weeks past. We had the pleasure of meeting him at the Geological Society, on the 21st January, where he conversed upon the geology of the interior of Africa, as well as its geography. He is a very quiet, unassuming man, with a weather beaten countenance, but marked withal, with firmness and decision. We mention his name, as he has, or had, two or three nephews and nieces residing in Montreal, and he has himself, we believe, been through the Canadas. He intends very shortly to resume his wanderings in the interior of Africa. As might be expected, he has been much worshipped by the Geographical Society, where his labors have been greatly appreciated, and whose meetings are crammed with the learned and much travelled of both sexes. There is not a more delightful and agreeable Society in London than the Geographical; one always hears something of unusual interest in connection with geographical research, there, well illustrated by large maps. It is no uncommon thing for a whole family of ladies and gentlemen to be fellows, and the fair sex always prove very attentive and agreeable fellows, and seem to take especial interest in matters pertaining to geography. Besides this celebrated traveller, many other persons of celebrity are in town, drawn together by the reassembling of parliament.

Of medical items, one may mention the use of amylene in place of chloroform, requiring a larger quantity to inhale, but not followed by any sickness or other bad effects. We have seen it used with success in about 70 instances; it is more expensive than chloroform. There are several new caustics in use :—as solution of chromic acid for warts and ulcers, introduced by

Mr. Marshall of University College—100 grs. crystallized chromic acid to an ounce of distilled water—this will destroy gonorrhœal and other warts when all other caustics fail. Highly dried sulphate of zinc is another, either sprinkled over a cancerous or ulcerated surface, as Prof. Simpson does, or made into a paste with glycerine—1 ounce of the dried salt to 1 drachm of glycerine—and applied on lint; it takes 2 or 3 hours to act, and a few applications often cure very bad cases. In regard to operative surgery, one is constantly seeing the usual operations, but the only real novelty of late was the performance of excision of the floor of the acetabulum and head of the thigh bone at the Charing Cross Hospital by Mr. Hancock, for caries and pelvic abscess, followed by cure. Your readers are aware, that the presence of these conditions, has hitherto been held as absolutely forbidding excision at all. But every day we are seeing set rules overturned with the best results, and it is really a difficult matter to say what cases are *not* suitable for operation, for oftentimes when the poor patient is at the point of death, his life is saved by an operation which cannot be altogether considered a mere *dernier resort.*

That eminent man, Dr. Watson, is the new President of the Pathological Society, and a first rate one he makes too. It is expected that Mr. Hird, of the Charing Cross Hospital, will be the new President of the London Medical, and we believe the fellows contemplate electing our humble self as one of the honorary Secretaries, a probationary post well worth any man's while filling for a time in London. —*Mont. Med. Chron.* G.

PRODUCTION OF TÆNIA.

BY DR. RIECKE.

It has been well proved by the experiments of Kuchenmeister, that individuals fed on pork tainted with "measles," and containing the peculiar entozoon called *Cysticercus cellulosæ*, become subject to tape-worm. Various German writers have supposed that these entozoa are destroyed by boiling, salting, and smoking the pork; and Dr. Riecke, of Nordhausen, has published a paper, in which he recommends the prohibition of the sale of pork, unless it has previously undergone these processes. In support of his views, he states that tænia is an exceedingly frequent complaint in the neighborhood of Nordhausen, where there is a large consumption of raw pork by the people; and, on the other hand, that in Altmark, where this practice is not prevalent, he has only seen six cases of the disease among about 10,000 patients who have been under his care, during a period of fourteen years. He therefore considers that, in order to prevent the spread of this parasite, all pork should be prepared, by salting and smoking, before it is sold, or permitted to be used by the people.—*Henke's Zeitschrift.*

REMOVAL OF THE SUPERIOR MAXILLARY, MALER PORTION OF THE PALATE, AND PTERYGOID PROCESS OF THE SPHENOID BONE.

REPORTED BY J. W. C. SMITH, M. D.

This operation was performed, we believe, for the first time, in Mississippi, by Drs. Isom and Rogers, of Oxford, on the 31st of December, 1855, on a negro boy, aged eighteen years, of good constitution, for the removal of a large fibro-cartilagenous tumor which had formed in the antrum of the right side.

The disease commenced some four years previous to the operation, with pain in the jaw, which was supposed, at the time, to be caused by a diseased tooth, which was removed without relief. The tumor commenced growing from this period and continued to increase in size until it almost entirely destroyed the walls of the antrum, and projecting into the nares (anterior and posterior) seriously obstructed respiration and was a considerable impediment to deglutition. It had almost entirely displaced the vomer and produced great deformity of the face. The weight of the tumor was eleven ounces. There was present at the operation Drs. Buford and Thompson, also several medical students.

The patient was placed on his back upon the operating table, with his head considerable elevated, so as to allow the free escape of blood from the mouth during the operation. Chloroform was then administered, and the right front incisor tooth drawn by Dr. Green, (surgeon dentist,) after which an incision was made through the integuments, commencing at the junction of the nasal and frontal bones, extending down the side of the nose and through the lip in the mesian line. Another incision was then made, extending from the outer angle of the mouth to a point midway between the external meatus and outer canthus of the eye. The integuments were partly dissected up and the orbital edge of the bone cleared of its soft parts. The nasal process of the max-

illary bone was then detached from the frontal a little below their union. The maler bone was detached at its union with the zygoma and frontal bone with a strong pair of cutting plyers; a pair of long-bladed plyers were next introduced, one blade into the nares of the right side, the other into the mouth, and the bone cut through to its articulation with the palatine process of the palate bone. An attempt was now made to remove the tumor, but it was found that the pterygoid process of the sphenoid and the palatine process of the palate bones were involved. By a careful stroke of the knife the velum pendulum was separated from the palate bone; the pterygoid and palatine processes were then divided and the tumor dislodged without further difficulty. The wound was exposed to air for a few moments, after which the cavity was filled with lint and the edges of the wound brought together and held in place by a few stitches of the interrupted suture. After the wound was dressed, the patient was allowed a little wine and water, which seemed necessary from the feeble action of the heart; he was then put to bed and an anodyne administered. The cold water dressing was applied and the patient rapidly recovered without an unfavorable symptom.

The hemorrhage during the operation was very slight, not even requiring the ligation of a single artery—another fact which we think goes to prove the uselessness of ligating the carotid in such operations.

It has now been thirteen months since the operation was performed. Very little deformity marks the severe operation—the gap left by the removal of the maxilla has almost entirely closed, the power of swallowing fluids is fully restored, the articulation is perfectly natural, and from present appearances the boy is entirely free from disease.—*Memp. Med. Rec.*

LONDON QUACKERY.

Dr. John Sutton, M. R. C. S., *alias* Dr. Sydney Hall, *alias* Dr. Manning, a short, well-dressed young man of gentlemanly manners, apparently about 24 years of age, described as a surgeon residing at Frederick-place, was charged with unlawfully attempting to extort money by publishing a libel against Mr. William Harrison, a farmer residing at Sleaford, in Lincolnshire, The complainant, it appeared, some time since saw in the newspapers the doctor's advertisement, and having entered into a correspondence with him, communicated to prisoner, in his medical capacity, certain facts which were of a strictly private nature. For some time the prisoner sent and was paid for his advice and medicine, but Mr. Harrison finding that he received no benefit from Dr. Sutton, left off communicating with him. The prisoner then went on to say that if the prosecutor did not at once send him £25 he should publish the whole of the private letters that had passed between them. It was under these circumstances that a warrant was granted for the prisoner's apprehension. A detective of the N division, named Tompkins, called at the defendant's house, and saw a person who represented that she was Dr. Sutton's wife; but when he told her who he was, she touched a secret spring in the wall of the passage, and then a bell rang violently. After some difficulty, he and Redstall gained admission; but although they searched the house carefully through three or four times, they could find no trace of the prisoner. They then returned to the drawing-room, and fancying they heard a hollow sound proceed from the floor, they tried to lift up the carpet, and at one of the corners they found that it came up, and with it two strings that were in two holes in the floor. Thinking that there must be a trap-door, they looked for one, and after some difficulty found one cleverly inserted in the floor. Lifting it up they saw a dark hole, but procuring a light they saw the prisoner crouched up in a corner, and having dragged him up, they took him to the station-house.

Mr. Haines (who appeared for the complainant) said that since the last examination the prisoner had written to his client a note, stating that he was extremely sorry for the course he had pursued, that he was sincerely sorry for what he had done, and expressed a hope that, if he made a full and ample apology in open court, he would not proceed further with the charge. Under these circumstances, he, on the part of Mr. Harrison, was prepared to accept that apology, and to withdraw from further proceeding with the prosecution.

Mr. Robinson said he was there on the part of the defendant, and was quite willing to make the most full and ample apology that could be required, and to state that the defendant was extremely sorry for the course he had pursued. He might, however, state that, according to his instructions, the defendant never had the slightest wish or intention of publishing Mr. Harrison's private communica-

tion; and he wrote the note complained of under great excitement, caused by a communication received from the complainant. There had been a civil action in the Clerkenwell County Court, and he thought the matter would have ended.

Mr. Tyrwhitt said it was a very serious thing for parties to have their confidential notes, which they sent to their medical men, made public. As all parties appeared satisfied, the prisoner would be discharged.

COMMUNICATIONS.

(Communicated for The Medical World.)

CASES OF HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT.

[Translated from the German by H. L. H. Hoffendahl, M. D.]

BRONCHITIS CAPILLARIS.

BY DR. HILBERGER, OF TRIESTE.

(From the Zeitschrift fur Hom. Klinik.)

This form of bronchial inflammation, generally attacking the entire lung, and extending into the minutest ramifications of the bronchi, is always accompanied by very grave symptoms.

The imperfect oxidation of the blood causes a formidable disturbance in the circulation.—This is manifested at first by an almost imperceptible movement of the pulse and heart, and later, if the disease continues, by the cyanotic appearance of the patient. The sudden change in the composition of the blood has a paralyzing influence on the nervous centres. This increases still more the difficulty of the respiration, and is followed by a feeling of extreme weakness, and cerebral symptoms, (sopor,) conditions which seldom delay long in making their appearance.

This form of disease generally occurs in predisposed subjects, (for example, in apoplectic, rachitic individuals, during epidemics of typhus, &c.,) and on this account the prognosis is commonly unfavorable.

Among Homœopathic remedies there are several that have a specific relation to the morbid process of this disease. Some of the remedies have been highly recommended, even by allopathic physicians of the old and of the new school.

Of eight well developed cases, which have of late years come under my observation, the following three cases seem worthy of publication on account of the prompt effect of the Homœopathic remedies. Of those which ended fatally, there were two rachitic children, a man, sixty years of age, of apoplectic habits, a woman of seventy, who had had frequent attacks of catarrh and pneumonia, and a man of forty, who was attacked immediately after having had typhus.

The specific relation of the remedies which were used, (*Phosphorus*, *Tact. em.*, *Carbo veg.* and *Baryta carb.*,) not only to the respiratory organs, but to the general character of the disease, is too evident to need further comment.

Case 1. A man fifty-two years of age, of powerful build, had enjoyed perfect good health until four years ago. At that time, after an unexpected stroke of ill fortune, he had an attack of apoplexy, which left him with paralysis of the right side. When the patient consulted me, he had already been treated ineffectually for this affection for several years. Under the application of magnetism the patient recovered the use of the lower extremity entirely, while the power of the upper extremity, and the voice, improved considerably.

Last fall, in consequence of taking cold, the patient was taken with articular rheumatism and a violent bronchial catarrh. At my first visit I found him in the following condition:

The cutaneous surface hot, the face flushed, pulse full and hard, one hundred and thirty beats a minute. The tongue had a mucous coating. The patient suffered from violent thirst; respiration abdominal and very anxious; the sound on percussion normal; auscultation revealed moist, sub-crepitant rales, extending over the whole thorax; the abdomen felt hard, there having been no evacuation for several days. The urine had the appearance com mon in inflammatory disease. On testing it with nitric acid, the presence of albumen was detected. The patient lay almost in a state of sopor, and only answered questions after being repeatedly addressed. He complained of violent pain in the joints. Prescribed *aconite*, sixth dilution, a dose every 4 hours.

On the following day I found the fever considerably diminished, the pulse being reduced to ninety. The pains in the joints had also become much less. But the appearance of bronchitis had rather increased than diminished. The respiration was anxious and interrupted, and the patient was tormented by a violent spasmodic cough. Expectoration was difficult; the sputa consisted of difluent mucus, strongly discolored by blood.

Taking into consideration that a hemorrhagic exudation into the parenchyma of the lung had supervened, I gave *Phosphorus*, third dilution, two drops every four hours. The effect was very favorable. The dyspnoæ aud the sopor diminished considerably. The expectoration became easier and was less bloody. The subcrepitant rales were less distinct at the upper part of the chest.

On the fifth day of the disease a considerable aggravation occurred, without any known cause. On the morning of that day I found the patient covered by a cold perspiration, which had commenced about midnight. The pulse was small, thread-like, the lips blue, extremities cold. The patient could make no motions, on account of a feeling of lameness, as he described it. The respiration was panting.—The expectoration was quite liquid and again much colored by blood. I ordered *Carbo veg.*, fifteenth dilution, one dose every three hours, alternately with *Phosphorus* third dilution. On the evening of the same day there was already great improvement. The surface felt worm, and the perspiration had ceased. The same remedies being continued at longer intervals, the patient's condition improved so rapidly that he could leave his bed in six days. The mobility of the limbs, which had diminished during this sickness, improved again after a few weeks, during which time three doses of *Baryta carb.* had been given.

Case II. A man about forty years of age, of powerful build, had enjoyed perfect health from his childhood. In consequence of getting wet during a shower he was taken, according to his report, with a catarrh, and treated for fourteen days by an allopathic practitioner, with purgatives, emetics, and leeches applied ad anum, the patient all the time growing gradually worse.

On taking charge of the patient, I found him in the following condition: The coloration of the face changed frequently, being sometimes dark red, and sometimes pale; the external temperature was nearly normal. The pulse was also changeable, being sometimes small, sometimes hard and full. The eyes were sensitive to light, the tongue had a yellow coating, the taste was bitter, the fauces of a dark red color, the tonsils much swollen, the voice hoarse. Respiration partly abdominal. Percussion showed a weak tympanitic tone at the upper part of the thorax; elsewhere the toue was normal. Auscultation showed loud vesicular respiration in the upper part of the chest, and crepitus and dry rales in the lower portion. At night there was always panting respiration, and a cough which entirely prevented sleep, and caused an infrequent and difficult expectoration of tough mucus with streaks of blood. The abdomen was enlarged, and gave a tympanitic sound on percussion.—The spleen was slightly enlarged. On alternate days there was constipation and watery diarrhoæ. The urine was dark brown with a yellowish sediment. Its reaction was neutral, and it contained a slight quantity of albumen. The patient lay, especially at night, in a state of half sopor, with closed eyes, continually mumbling indistinct sentences. He complained of extreme weakness and exhaustion.

This complication of a violent bronchial catarrh with what, from its symptoms, appeared like commencing typhus, induced me at once to form an unfavorable prognosis. With reference to the patient's general condition I gave *Rhus tox*, third dilution, two drops in half a glass of water, a teaspoonful to be given every hour. On the second day there was a slight improvement, which had disappeared on the third day. A considerable diarrhœa set in, with six discharges during the night. The dyspnœa was increased, and the want of expectoration was particularly annoying to the patient. The pulse was very small and scarcely perceptible. I ordered *Phosphorus*, third dilution, one dose every three hours. This had a very favorable effect on the diarrhœa, but the bronchial appearances remained the same. Several asthmatic attacks occurred, during which the patient was nearly suffocated. Expectoration was still absent.

Taking into consideration the danger of paralysis of the lungs, I gave *Tart. emet.*, second trituration, one grain dissolved in water, to be taken in three doses at intervals of four hours. No change had taken place twelve hours later, when I saw the patient again. The respiration was panting. On auscultation I found the respiratory murmur almost wanting at the lower part of the chest. The patient besought me to give him some remedy to promote expectoration, as otherwise he would certainly suffocate. I gave him *Baryta carb.*, third trituration, to be given three, times like the preceding remedy. At midnight there was already slight expectoration; in the morning the patient felt much easier, and frequently expelled some tough mucus. Crepitus was again audible in the lower part of the chest, showing that the bronchial ramifications were again permeable. From this time the improvement continued, the patient being only trou-

bled by great weakness for some length of time. Although he usually drank wine very seldom, it was now very beneficial to him, and I therefore let him drink a glass of Malaga wine daily. The use of wine in disease seems worthy of especial attention, since it is certainly one of the most powerful of dietetic agents. A careful examination of its sphere of action and its most important qualities would be very desirable.

Case III. This patient was a girl, 7 years of age, of slender build, who was suddenly taken in the night, with violent fever, cough, and all the objective symptoms of a violent bronchitis. A dose of *Aconite* removed the fever, but on the second day the bronchitis had increased to such a degree that the panting and rales could be heard at some distance. After one dose of *Tart. emet.*, third trituration, the violent symptoms yielded so rapidly that the disease took on the character of an ordinary bronchial catarrh, and the patient was quite well in two weeks.

ACUTE ŒDEMA OF THE LUNGS.

BY DR. ELB, OF DRESDEN.

(From the Allgem. Hom. Zeitung.)

August 17th, at 4 o'clock in the morning, I was called to Mr. von W. after being informed that two allopathic physicians had already been in attendance on him for several hours, who, their exertions being ineffectual, had declared that they could no longer undertake the responsibility of the case. I found the patient, a young man 27 years of age, sitting in bed, supported by his servant, moving continually to and fro, with the most anxious expression of countenance, great orthopnœ, inability to speak, almost incessant cough, and frequent vomiting of bloody, foaming, liquid masses, sometimes with and sometimes without cough. Although at least six pounds of this matter had been expelled since the commencement of the attack, at 11 o'clock at night, both lungs were still filled with the fluid secretion. The rattling sound in the chest could be heard at some distance; the sound on percussion was tympanitic; auscultation revealed crepitant and subcrepitant rales, with very weak vesicular murmur, throughout the extent of both lungs. The surface of the whole body, although well covered, was cold and covered with colliquative sweat. There was great thirst, the pulse was thread-like, and could not be counted, violent palpitation of the heart, and great anxiety. Judging from the symptoms, there was no reason for doubting the diagnosis of my two allopathic colleagues, who declared the disease to be an acute idiopathic œdema of both lungs, and prognosticated an inevitable fatal result. Their prescription consisted in irritant applications to the skin, and injections; also effervescing mixtures and *æther acet.*, to support the strength. Under these remedies the disease remained unchanged, and the patient was near death by suffocation.

Nothing certain could be ascertained as to the cause of this suffering. Mr. von W. had certainly a delicate constitution, had previously had several attacks of asthma, and had been told by a clinical professor that he was affected with an organic disease of the heart. The day before he had taken rather a long ride, and it being a mild summer evening, he had taken supper in the open air. He had returned home at 10, perfectly well, and at 11 he was suddenly attacked, without any prodromes. Having been for several years accustomed to Homœpathic treatment, he took several drops of *Tart. emet.* 6th dilution, without relief, before the arrival of the physicians. Attributing the inefficacy of this remedy to the insufficiency of the dose, I ordered *Tart. emet.*, 2d dilution, 2 grains every hour. After the first dose there was only one more discharge of the bloody, foaming expectoration, and at the same time the anxiety diminished. Four hours later I saw the patient again; the anxiety had decreased still more, and he only complained of a feeling of pressure and contraction over the upper part of the chest; there had been no more discharge of mucus, and the rattling was inaudible at a distance; ausculation showed that the left lung was relieved of its morbid secretion, with the exception of the apex, while only the upper half of the right lung was still filled up; the thorax commenced to move, and the sound, on percussion, was tympanitic only over the affected points.

With some exertion, the patient could now speak a few words without interruption, and he could lie quietly in an elevated position. The skin was less cold, the perspiration much diminished, pulse 125; *Tart. emet.* continued, with light unirritating diet. At my evening visit the patient's anxiety had almost disappeared, and he had a great desire to speak, although all efforts of this kind were forbidden. Crepitus could only be detected in a few isolated places; the skin was warm and covered with a natural moisture; pulse 112, and fuller.

During the following night the patient could sleep quietly for hours, and this contributed so

much toward his recovery, that, on the morning of the 18th, he could sit up in bed without support, and even began to feel some appetite. The anxiety had ceased almost entirely, and there was but little of that feeling of pressure and contraction in the right upper lung, of which he had formerly complained. Crepitation could only be heard at one point, of about the size of a dollar, on the right side; the temperature of the skin was normal, and the pulse reduced to 100. *Tart. emet.* was now ordered at intervals of 3 hours. The day passed without any further difficulty, and at night the pulse was only 90. The patient slept well during the night, and, on the morning of the 19th, he had nothing more to complain of. As physical signs of disease could no longer be detected, the patient was pronounced convalescent, and without further remedy, and under the use of a nutritious diet, he was restored to his usual health in a few days.

For the purpose of ascertaining whether this was a case of idiopathic œdema, or whether it was dependent on some other disease, I made a careful examination of the chest at my last visit to the patient.

On inspection, the thorax appeared normally formed; auscultation and percussion showed no sign of tuberculosis, emphysema or other pulmonary disease. Vesicular breathing was everywhere present, except at the lower posterior portion of the right lung, under the angle of the scapula. At this point the sound on percussion was dull, and the respiratory murmur was almost wanting. These signs could be referred to the remains of exudation after an attack of pleurisy, which the patient had undergone two and a half years ago. The cardiac disease was manifested only by a weak souffle over the left ventricle; as this was loudest at the apex, and not isochronic with the pulse, and as no dilatation of the right ventricle could be detected, therefore it could be assumed as probable that the cause of this souffle was not an insufficiency of the mitral valve, but more likely some roughness on the pericardium. As, moreover, no disease could be detected which could cause an acute œdema of the lungs, therefore our diagnosis of acute *idiopathic* œdema of the lungs seems justifiable.

This case tends to show, moreover, the inefficiency of the practice, as well as of the theory of the old school. The allopathic treatment was insufficient, since the remedies applied had no effect; the allopathic theory was also at fault, since the progress of the disease was not checked by vomiting of 5 hours' duration, emesis being its sovereign remedy in affections of this sort. One specific remedy, on the other hand, *arrested* the vomiting, contrary to the indications of our opponents, and caused the resorption of the exudation with surprising rapidity.

[Communicated to the Medical World.]

CLERICAL HEALTH.*

NUMBER XV. — BY WM. M. CORNELL, M. D.

Effect of Air on the Blood — Scrofula — Impure Air in Church — Beds — Food, Animal and Vegetable — Hot Bread and Butter — Fruit — Homœopathic Diet — Bad Cooking — Quantity of Food in Winter and Summer for the Laboring and the Sedentary.

Air.—No person can enjoy health, for any length of time, who breathes a vitiated atmosphere. "The life is the blood," and the blood will become corrupt, when impure air is breathed. There are other things that may render the blood impure, but this is one. By the constitution of our nature, the blood is brought to the lungs, to be purified, that it may again go on its course with alacrity, strengthening, invigorating, and restoring all the various parts of the body. The blood from the lungs is carried through the whole body by the arteries. In a red, leaping, bounding current, it pours along, dividing and subdividing till it forms the *capillary* circulation, in the skin; where the little hair-like tubes are so thick, that not the point of the smallest needle can be inserted without wounding some of them, and causing them to bleed. From these little vessels it is carried into the veins, after it has done all it can to promote the growth, or restore the waste of the body. Every portion of the system, even to the finger nails, is made by the blood. When it enters the veins it returns sluggishly to the lungs. It is then *black*, and charged with pernicious matter, and goes to be aerified, or, as it is called, *arterialized* in the lungs. If, when it arrives there, pure air is admitted into the lungs, the blood again changes to a *bright red* color. A noxious gas, called *carbonic acid*, is thrown off, and the blood goes on its course, again to renew and set in motion the whole machine.

*Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1856, by WILLIAM M. CORNELL, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.

Now, if the air admitted into the lungs is vicious, that is, deprived of its oxygen, which sustains the vital principle, the body must suffer. Suppose, now, that we put a person into one of the little, narrow, ill-ventilated rooms in one of our very contracted streets or lanes, — what is the consequence? He becomes pale and lank; his skin is yellow; — a dingy, dirty, nasty color covers his countenance; his appetite fails, and he looks just like multitudes whom you may see any day in such places. It cannot be otherwise. He must have air.

One would suppose enough had been said on this subject, within a few years past; and yet, I have no doubt, that hundreds and thousands die annually for the want of good, wholesome air. If you wish to test this question, look at the children in the country, and in the city. The contrast is vast; except, perhaps, among a few families in the country who try to make a *city* there, by living in a confined atmosphere. Not long since, I was spending a Sabbath a few miles from the city. An elderly gentleman, from the city, drove up with his little granddaughter, about eight or nine years of age. She was one of the frailest, feeblest little creatures that I ever saw. She appeared *so bloodless* that I was led to make inquiry after her mode of living. "Oh," said her grandpapa, "her *mother* takes most excellent care of her; but she fears, sometimes, that she shall never raise the poor little thing. She scarcely ever lets her go out of the room."

Thus, the secret was out in a moment. The poor child needed the atmosphere, which God made for her, and made her to breathe. Now, look at a child who has the country air, — he is strong, his muscles are hard, he looks as though the blood would come through the skin. He is all life and activity; he knows not what lassitude and ill health mean.

You will scarcely drink after another person from the same glass, and yet, you will breathe over, and over, the same air, charged with all the filth and poison of a hundred human bodies around you. You cannot bear to touch a *dead* body, because it is so poisonous and polluting, but you can take right into your lungs, and consequently, into your body, your system, those poisonous particles and noxious exhalations, which the bodies around you have refused, and which have been cast into the atmosphere, by their lungs, because the health of their bodies required them to be thrown off. If the "timorously nice creatures who can scarcely set foot upon the ground," who are so delicate that they run distracted at the crawling of a worm, flying of a bug, or squeaking of a mouse, could *see* what they breathe, at the midnight carousal, the very polite ball, and the sweet theatre, they would never be caught in such company again. Nay, if they could *see* what they breathe in their own dwellings, after the doors and windows have been closed a little while, they would soon keep open houses. More sickness is caused by vitiated air than can be named.

It is one of the most prominent causes of scrofula, which is but another name for half the diseases that attack the human body. It vitiates and destroys the whole fountain of life, the blood.

In the sick-room it often augments the disease, or renders it incurable. If the physician comes in and opens a window, or a door stands ajar for a moment, the good nurse, or the tender mother, or the kind wife, or the loving sister, will fly up and close it, as though the life of the sick were at stake. All this is well-meant kindness, but really, cruel. If you would have health, breathe fresh air; throw open your windows every morning, and often during the day; leave off your mufflers from the chin. For twenty years, I was accustomed to go out never without an extra handkerchief tied closely around the mouth, and for nearly that period have left it off; I have had fewer colds and suffered far less from changes of climate than previously. Let air into your bed-rooms; you cannot have too much of it, provided it does not blow directly upon you.

Many clergymen are injured by vitiated air in their studies. They are small, and when the door and windows are closed, the atmosphere soon becomes loaded with noxious vapors. The clergyman is intent upon his subject; he scarcely knows whether he breathes or not, much less does he think of *what* he breathes. Many, also, are seriously injured by the manner of heating their studies. All closed stoves should be avoided. The good, old-fashioned, open, large chimney, with a fireplace sufficiently capacious to receive the wood with but little chopping, is much preferable to the stoves and grates, and whole paraphernalia of modern fuel-saving inventions, which have racked the brains and tortured the intellects of many laymen and some clergymen.

Then, clergymen often, while buried in study, allow too sudden and too great a change in the air of the study. If the fire is too large, they do not know it, and if they discovered them-

selves in a free perspiration, would be as likely to call the servant to move back the chimney, as Sir Isaac Newton is reported to have done, as to think of the possibility of moving back the chair. Then the other extreme is much more likely to happen, and the fire go out, and the room become so cold that he gets a severe chill before he knows whether the room is warm or cold. Many have thus laid the foundation for a fever. Often the minister suffers by preaching in an ill-ventilated church. Few clergymen there are who cannot call to mind times when they have preached under great oppression. They have felt themselves to be in a torpid state, more like sleeping than speaking. They have almost gasped for breath. The reason or cause of all this they have not known at the time, but have at length perceived that they have been preaching in a nearly exhausted air-pump. The house had been closed since the last Sabbath. Not a window had been raised, nor a door opened, but for the ingress or egress of the people. Of what air there was, the minister had the worst of it, especially if he was compelled to ascend one of those pulpits which seemed designed to raise him as far towards

> "That heaven to which he points
> And leads the way,"

as was at all practicable. The rarefied air ascending, he had to take its most deleterious effluvia. Many a minister, too, has laid the foundation of ill health by preaching in a house without a fire, between winter and summer; or, what may be called "between hay and grass." The sun had begun to return from the chambers of the South, and it was sufficiently warm while walking in the open air; the sagacious sexton, therefore, concluded it would be warm enough in the house, and was pleased to be relieved of the trouble of kindling a fire. Far better would it be, in such cases, to imitate the "Celestials," who put on an extra garment when within doors.

Beds. — Never have a *feather* bed about your premises. They are greasy, dirty, unwholesome things. In many rooms where I have been shut up, when visiting, or travelling, it was poisonous to remain. The way, too, in which many manage them, is to be abominated. They creep out of them in the morning, make them up steaming hot, shut the doors and windows, and leave all till bed-time. Then the scene is acted over again, and the poor feathers almost *scream* out as loudly as the goose did when they were plucked from her. It is difficult to say which is the bigger *goose*, the one that furnished the feathers, or he who feloniously plucked them off for a bed. There are many materials which make much more healthful beds than feathers; such as husks of corn, straw, hair, springs, &c., &c. *Cotton* is about as bad as feathers. In most persons, it creates a heat which resembles ants running over the body, or what physicians more politely call a sense of *formication*. Hard beds are much to be preferred, and that for more reasons than can be here stated. If you would not be sick, then look to your beds, as well as to the air you breathe.

Food. — Many volumes have been written upon diet, and while some recommend naught but bran bread, others would surfeit you with luxuries. Either extreme should be avoided, and you will need to be careful that while you shun Scylla, you do not fall into Charybdis. Plain, wholesome food, and a sufficiency of it, is the best course to pursue. Food taken three times a day, is often enough, and nothing but liquids should be taken between meals. By luncheons and *tit-bits* the whole digestive arrangement is broken up; and, if such a course is persisted in, digestion is permanently deranged. No person can have good health long who eats every two or three hours in the day. As to vegetable and animal food, you may eat either, if you can use them with moderation. Of meats, the lighter kinds are generally the most healthful, such as mutton, lamb, veal, young beef, venison. Old, tough, hard beef, and all kinds of pork should never be eaten, and no animal should be eaten that has been stalled or confined. The idea of shutting up a hog in a close pen, and feeding him upon poisonous, dirty slops and offal, and then *eating him*, "shocks all common sense." It is enough to make a man sick to think of it. If you would preserve health, never touch the abominable thing. It is, however, more to the *confinement* of the animal which renders him unhealthy, that we would object, than to the quality of his food, though something is depending upon that. To fat a goose, and make its liver peculiarly tasty to epicures, it is recommended to tie its legs and wings, put it in the chimney corner, and cram it with Indian meal. The liver of the animal thus fattened, very much resembles a pathological or diseased specimen, and it is not much different with a hog, as he is usually fattened.

Many kinds of birds and fowls are wholesome food, but all carniverous fowls should be avoided. Their food is very pernicious.

Man is so nearly an omniverous animal, that he needs to regulate his appetite, if he would preserve his health. Animal food, when well digested, is the most nourishing, but no person should live on that alone. A free use of animal food alone destroys the energy of man, and renders him dull and heavy If you are of a plethoric, or full habit, and wish to preserve your health, you must use animal food very sparingly. It produces more blood than vegetables, and stimulates the system to a far greater extent. Hence the circulation of the blood is much augmented by it. Persons who use much animal food, are also much more subject to inflammatory diseases than those who make use of a mixed diet. Persons who live too much on animal food, acquire a putrid *diathesis*, or tendency to putridity.

Excess of animal food has, also, a bad effect upon the mind, rendering persons peevish, fretful, and highly irritable; and the mind, again, re-acts upon the body, and thus produces disease. I would not advise you to weigh or measure your food, or seek for great nicety between the proportions of animal and vegetable. Persons who do this are generally restless enough to injure their health. The quantity of food, and the porportion between animal and vegetable, depend very much upon the climate, or the season, and other circumstances, much more being necessary in cold, than in warm weather.

Good bread is essential to the preservation of health. It is, indeed, *the staff of life.* Bread should be made of good wheat unbolted, or rye and Indian meal. No fine flour should be eaten by a person in health. One grand design to be answered by bread, in the animal economy, is to fill up the stomach, as food will digest much more readily in the human stomach of a healthy person, when it is well filled, than when a very small quantity, or rather very nourishing or hearty food is taken alone. When the alimentary canal is gently filled up, the mass carries the nutritious juices along, so that they are much better prepared to be acted upon by the lacteal absorbents, (little vessels which take up the nourishment and convey it into the blood.) Bread contains nourishment, but it is, generally, equally useful for its bulk. The closest and richest food will not nourish a person, unless the alimentary canal is properly filled. Butter alone will not support animal life. The experiment has been tried upon a dog, by feeding him with rich broth, but it failed to support his life. If you would preserve health, you must learn to unite nutritious food with a proper quantity of light or farinaceous materials.

Mixed bread is generally preferable to that which is made from one kind of grain. Bread well fermented, is light, pleasant to the taste, and easily solved by the bowels. One prominent cause of indigestion, or dyspepsia, so prevalent in this country, is the general use of fine, hot bread. To increase the evil, not unfrequently it is not sufficiently baked. The most injurious food that can be taken into the human stomach is this fine, hot, half-baked bread. Rarely do we see, in these degenerate days, those large, well-kneaded, and well-baked brown loaves of our grandmothers. Good, mealy *potatoes* are a wholesome article of diet. But those raised for a few years past have mostly been of a bad kind, and, if eaten, very injurious. The cause of the potatoe rot, we shall not attempt to assign, as we are not writing for the premium. *Butter*, and all oily sub stances, should be used but sparingly, and not at all when rancid. An erroneous opinion generally prevails as to the use of *fruits.* They are thought to be unwholesome. This is not the case when they are fully ripe and fresh, and eaten at a proper time. This should always be at the time of an ordinary meal. Those fruits which have been long kept, or which have begun to decay, are unfit to be eaten.

Broths and soups are hard to digest, and should be used very sparingly. The reason is, the watery or liquid parts are immediately taken up by the absorbent vessels of the stomach, and the animal portion is left—as a solid substance which has not been properly mixed with saliva, having been unchewed—to be digested by the stomach and other viscera. Whatever may be said of the Homœopathic treatment, in other respects, all must acknowledge that their system of *dietetics* is an excellent one. We are all in the habit of eating a thousand indigestible things which lay the foundation for disease. But the limits of this article will not allow me farther to particularize.

The system of *cookery*, now pursued, is well calculated to create disease. No person, who wishes to preserve good health, should follow it. The using of so much *grease* in cooking is a very pernicious custom, and all things fried in it are unwholesome. They tend to injure the organs of digestion and induce debility.

As to *drinks*, pure, soft water is infinitely the best. Black tea may be taken in moderation, but coffee, cocoa, and green tea, all produce diseases. They are much better calcu-

lated for *medicines*, than for common drinks.

Why do we require more food in winter than in summer? Because we breathe faster. We consume more oxygen. We require more food in winter, for the very same reason that we require more fire, and because a large fire requires more fuel than a small one. There is more heat to be supplied; the furnace of the lungs burns up oxygen faster, the colder the climate. For the same reason, the laborer requires more food than the student. The former breathes faster and thus consumes more air, and needs more fuel than the latter. For the same reason, children require food oftener, and more in quantity, than adults. They respire more frequently, and the *waste* must be more than supplied, or there can be no growth of the body. For the same reason, birds require more food, in propertion to their weight, than serpents. The former respire twice, or thrice, as much air, as the latter. For the same reason, hybernating animals require no food during their hybernation. They scarcely breathe at all, or but once in a minute or two. And for a similar reason, many adipose men should often fast. They would breathe oftener, breathe easier, and live longer. For the same reason, the Esquamaux and Laplander require grease, while the inhabitants of tropical climates abhor it. Thus these different races live so differently. The one wraps himself in his greasy skin, and swallows grease, as meat and drink; the other abominates it in all its forms, and feasts on fruit. And thus each looks forward to his own favorite heaven; the one, where he shall dwell amidst beds of roses, breathe their fragrance, and feast on oranges, pomegranates, and sweet raisins; the other, where he shall never be cold for want of his favorite food, but be able to feed on lard, and quaff full bowls swimming to the brim with the grease of the sea otter, train oil, and whale blubber.

Sometime since I was requested, by letter, to prescribe for the weak eyes and general debility of a clergyman, at a distance. One of his brother ministers, from the neighborhood, who happened to be in at the time of receiving the letter, remarked, You can never cure Brother ——— unless you can put him on a short allowance, and make him give up nut-cakes, mince-pie, and pound-cake, and confectionery. The exhibition of creative designing wisdom in the digestive apparatus should forever preclude every clergyman from abusing it.

(Communicated for The Medical World.)

AUSCULTATION APPLIED TO THE DIAGNOSIS OF DISEASES OF THE EAR.

Messrs. Editors:—The following extract from the *Gazette Medicale*, in a recent number of the *Allg. Hom. Zeitung*, has just come under my observation. I send it to you, as the subject is interesting from its novelty, and may become valuable to the profession on further examination. Yours,

H. L. H. Hoffendahl, M. D.

Gendrin recommends auscultation in diseases of the ear, either by applying the stethoscope or the ear of the auscultor directly to the ear of the patient. From the sounds which are produced in the auditory passages by the respiration, cough, voice, whistling, &c., he draws conclusions as to the pathological condition. In the normal condition, every expiration produces in the ear a soft, distant, murmuring sound, which ceases with the expiratory movement.

If there is perforation of the tympanum, the sound becomes sharp and hissing, and is of longer duration. In contraction or stricture of the auditory passage, the sound becomes intermittent. In accumulation of mucus, a sort of crepitus is heard; this crepitus is also a pathognomonic sign of caries. *Cough* gives a more decided character to all these signs. In perforation of the tympanum, *inspiration* causes a hissing sound and a rale. If the auditory passage is contracted, or partly filled with mucus, pus, &c., or clogged by central exostosis, then the *voice* has the sound of a confused, inarticulate murmur, while it is inaudible if the canal is entirely closed. In the normal condition, *whistling* has a hissing sound, and appears to come from a distance; if the passage is contracted, its sound is obscured; if the passage is closed, it is inaudible. If the tympanum is perforated, while the auditory canal is open, then whistling gives a sharp sound, and appears as if close to the ear of the auscultor. In most cases the abnormal sounds are easiest of detection, if both ears are examined, as the same lesion is seldom present on both sides.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, APRIL 29, 1857.

WITCHES OF SALEM. — Fourteen miles from Boston is the quiet, sombre, but wealthy city of Salem. Its historical renown is due to the early determination of the pious, good people of the place, to rid themselves of the devil and all his agents. Consequently sundry persons were publicly executed on conviction, for being witches. According to the representations of what is transpiring in their midst, the citizens of Salem are approaching another phase in civilization no less interesting than the great event in the age of their ancestors, which has given Salem an enduring name and a fame unequalled in the annals of fanatical New England.

It will be regarded hereafter as a phenomenon, that in a section of the United States distinguished for intelligence, the universal educational advantages of every man, woman, and child, a tendency to run into all imaginable psychological extravagances, and dis organizing isms, which unhinge the mind, craze individuals, destroy their influence, ruin trade, and make them the wonder of sane spectators abroad, should exist in such vigor.

The respectable editor of the Salem Register makes the following statement, after being present and witnessing the phenomena.

"The party was in a private house, the high character of the occupants of which, put out of the question all idea of collusion on their part. Among the company invited were the Mayor and several professional gentlemen of scientific attainments. The "medium" was Miss Cogswell, of Burlington, Vt. She came early into the room, and took a seat with her back to the strong gas-light, on account of her eyes, as she said. She was a very pretty and lady-like young person, with an innocent countenance, and gentle and intelligent expression. Her sleeves were of the short and wide character now common, concealing most of her arms when in repose. Shortly after taking her seat, a lady who accompanied her, and whom we understood to be a trance medium, turned up one of Miss Cogswell's sleeves, and exhibited to us all a name plainly written on the inside of the forearm, which she stated was that of her brother, now "in the spirit-land." In answer to inquiries, both she and Miss Cogswell stated that the latter was not previously acquainted with the name of this brother. Miss Cogswell also stated that these manifestations came upon her without any volition of her own, and that she had no certain knowledge of their being in response to the wishes of others, but she had reason to suppose they were. They occasioned no sensation whatever upon her skin. The first knowledge she had of possessing this peculiar gift, was some months ago, when she saw a sentence upon her arm. She is not aware that she has any peculiar susceptibility to "spiritual influences," but she states that she has seen the spirits of the departed, while in a natural and healthy condition of mind and body.

An attempt was afterwards made to have the experiments conducted methodically, under the direction of one of the medical gentlemen, and at intervals the words Yes, No, Mary, John, &c., appeared upon the arms; sometimes upon one, sometimes upon the other, and generally with perfect distinctness. It was not found practicable, however, to trace an unquestionable connection between them and the questions which had been written upon a private paper, by the examiner. The letters in all these cases were clear, well defined, over an inch in length, in a strong, flowing hand, and all the large strokes of the letters showed a distinct wale, such as would be made upon a delicate skin by a smart blow from a lash, and which was as perceptible to the touch as to the sight, until it faded away, which it generally did in a quarter of an hour or less."

In the mean while there is something transpiring nearer home. The Boston Atlas relates the following: —

"In our neighboring city of Cambridge the belief in Spiritualism has just received a very serious check, in a manner calculated to throw doubts on all experiments and manifestations of that nature. A student of divinity in Harvard University has for a year or two past figured extensively in private circles, as a medium of the first quality. His performances have surpassed all similar feats of the kind, and have made a profound impression, and secured numerous converts, not only in Cambridge, but in Boston and Salem, and various other places. He has, in short, been universally considered the most successful and satisfactory champion of the manifestations that has yet appeared in this part of the country. Sometime last week, however, he gave a private exhibition of his remarkable powers, in presence of some gentlemen connected with the University, one of whom, a Professor in the Scientific School, thought that he detected him in the act of moving the table with his foot, and accordingly seized and exposed him upon the spot. The evidence against him is of such weight, that we understand the authorities have considered his expulsion from the University. On the other hand, the student himself positively denies that he was guilty of any deception whatever, and affirms that the Professor who charged him with trickery, was altogether mistaken in his observations. He offers, as a proof of his sincerity, and of his spiritualistic powers, to move a table before witnesses, under such circumstances that no doubt can remain of his ability to cause the motion without any use of his ordinary bodily forces. We believe a majority of his fellow students in the Divinity School are satisfied of his honesty, which is also vouched for by the fact that he has hitherto borne an unblemished reputation. We hope that the matter will be thoroughly investigated, and some definite conclusion arrived at, for the satisfaction of all parties interested in it."

Next come the comments of Col. Clapp, editor of the Boston Evening Gazette, and this is his declaration, in the course of a running paragraph on the narrative in the Atlas: —

"A few weeks since we gave an account of some

wonderful things we saw performed, through the alleged aid of the spirits. The gentleman above referred to was the medium—and though we are not believers in Spiritualism, we are free to say that we think the young man honest and above suspicion. His expulsion from Harvard College will be mere persecution. The Professors of that institution cannot explain the cause of this phenomenon, and hence they set up the cry of "trickery." That will not answer — for though a man may move a bell with his feet, he cannot lift a piano from the floor weighing nearly a thousand pounds, by merely touching the keys, which this medium has done in our presence and in the presence of other unbelievers."

Not knowing what to say in explanation of these alleged phenomena, since the perfect integrity of the gentleman who wrote these quotations is beyond a question in this community, we are obliged to leave the subject for the elucidation of other minds.

NOTE. — Several papers assert that the government of the college have actually expelled the Spiritualist performer. If so, they have given an impulse to the cause. Persecution will multiply disciples, and give an energy to it, which could not otherwise be attained.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHRENOLOGY. — Whether Phrenology is true or imaginary, the quarto Journal, published in New York by Messrs. Fowler & Wells, abounds with a variety of matter which is nowhere else to be found, and generally as instructive as it is curious. We gave in our adhesion to the doctrine when Spurzheim demonstrated the anatomy of the brain, and in the presence of an appreciating assembly explained the principle of the new science, which no one has had the mental superiority yet to overthrow, however vigorously it may have been misrepresented and held up to derision. Without entering upon a discussion respecting the claims which Phrenology has on medical or other philosophers, for scrutiny, we are justified in recommending the American Journal to those who are in pursuit of knowledge that is useful to man in every condition of life. It is not a tame, soporific conglomeration of stale theories. On the contrary, its columns present something fresh, earnest, and worth knowing. The engravings in each number, to a mere collector of likenesses of rare people—those who stand out in bold relief before the gaze of the world — are worth three times the annual cost of subscription.

MEDICAL CHARITABLE FUND. — From the character of the gentlemen whose names are given as directors and officers, we have a strong hope that memberships will be secured, and in that way an interest increased in the benevolent objects of the institution. There must be enough collected and funded to give an annual sum, from which relief is to be afforded to those in the profession, in Massachusetts, who are poor and afflicted. Even members of their families, it is understood, are to participate in the disbursements, according to their claims and necessities. As those who do not contribute to the treasury cannot derive any advantages from it, should they be unfortunate, it must not be forgotten that their subscriptions may be bread cast upon the water, to be found by the needy when most in need. If the particulars of the organization come to our knowledge, further notice may be taken of this philanthropic scheme.

DEATHS.

At New Orleans, Mrs. A. Foster, and Miss Anna, daughters of Dr. Cone Rushton, of that city.

In Alabama, Prof. Tuomey. He was an active member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He made a geological survey of South Carolina some years ago, and was subsequently appointed State Geologist of Alabama. At the time of his death, he occupied the chair of Geology and Agricultural Chemistry in the University of Alabama. Prof. Tuomey had been engaged with Prof. Holmes in the publication of a work on the Fossils of South Carolina.

At Detroit, Michigan, Edmond G. Desnoyers, M. D., 34, supposed to have been the first native of that State who graduated at a regular medical school. He was a gentleman of generous impulses, cordial and accomplished.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 18.

Susan Lacy 2 days, Theresa McCawley 26 do, Frederick Newcomb 11 months, Mary D. Duggan 9 do, Mary Johnson 12 do, Mary E. H. Bowan 7 do, Mary A. Keleher 19 do, Ellen McGallagan 12 do, Julia E. Forrest 8 do, Mary Waters 11 do, Jas. Miller 2 do, Patrick Meary 65 years, Eliab H. Kingman 65 do, Mary O'Flaherty 34 do, Jane Conlan 60 do, Francis Hossenfuse 43 do, Hugh Boyle 6 do, Mary McCann 2 do, Wm. S. Ryan 29 do, Wm. J. White 15 do, Henry S. Richardson 28 do, Isabella D. Perkins 34 do, Willie H. Stevenson 15 months, Wm. Burke 4 do, Catherine N. Reddington 11 do, Mary McCarron 4 do, Lemuel C. Parsons 36 years, John Clifford 2 do., Mary Foley 36 do., Simeon Butler 37 do., Margaret Magner 35 do., Joseph Mercks 4 do., Catherine McCann 30 do., James Taffy 4 do., Thomas Egan 68 do., Wm. C. Marden 49 do., Betsy R. Davis 32 do., Jane Kingman 75 do., Joseph M. Mason 3 do., Ellen Donovan 7 months, Patrick Park 7 days, Chas. S. Pickett 1 month, Wm, Allen 3 do., Mary Clifford 6 do., John A. O'Neal, John O'Connell 11 do., Mary A. Bryant 8 do., James Manning 2 years, Catherine McKernan 21 do., John Lynch 11 do., Peter Clark 47 do., Jeremiah O'Connor 28 do., Wm. McLean 32 do., Joanna Hodde 43 do., Thomas P. York 30 do., Peter Murphy 40 do., Catherine Rogan 40., Wellman Morrison 42 do., Ernest Keach 19 months, Mary A. McKenna 13 do., Michael Coughlan 58 years, Emma F. Brooks 5 do., Rexeville H. Ward 15 do., Mary Kelleher 60 do., John Riley 64 do., John Flynn 45 do.

DISEASES.—Congestion of brain 2, consumption 14, cancer 2, dropsy 3, dropsy in the head 4, infantile diseases 2, unknown do. 5, typhoid fever 4, scarlet do. 5, disease of heart 4, inflammation of lungs 4, marasmus 3, teething 5, other diseases 1 each, 9. Total 66. 43 were born in United States, 17 in Ireland, and 6 in other foreign places.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE

MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME II. MAY 6, 1857. NUMBER 6.

PERSIAN SURGERY AND PHYSIC.

Col. Ferrier mentions in his recently published exciting volume, "Caravan Journeys," that in the city of Herat, his companion on a particular horseback excursion, Sidar Habib Ullah Khan, unfortunately had his left leg broken in the bazar, by the awkward action of a horse ridden by a servant. There was an immense crowd of people, and in the confusion, the Sidar was laid out in front of an old iron shop. After a while, by the assistance of a police force, the unfortunate man was removed to the house of the injured Ullah Khan.

Here was another scene of confusion. The women, though in the presence of the men, made an irruption from the harem into the room, sobbing and shrieking for at least an hour before they thought of attending to their suffering husband. The doctors and bone-setters who had been called in, Nov. 17, 1846, to set the leg, arrived one after the other, and two hours elapsed before they examined it. They were another hour discussing the mode of treatment, and of course, like Christian doctors, without agreeing about it. One wanted to wash the wound made by the nails of the horse-shoe; another proposed something else. At last the Vizier's surgeon arrived — and he was for washing it; but the dresser who was fixing the splints, stopped short, declaring that he would do nothing further, unless a mollah (a Mohammedan priest) came and said the prayer usually offered during an operation — a prayer beforehand constituting, in his opinion, at least, three-fourths of the chances of a cure.

A full hour again passed away before the Kazi arrived, who then recited a long orison; and when it was finished, the leg was wretchedly and most unskilfully set, the horrible agony and loud cries of the patient being little regarded. The surgeons then put on a plaster made of barley flour and yolks of eggs, to facilitate the joining of the bone! But at this point they had by no means done with the sufferer, and a dispute arose as to the general treatment, and how he was to be dieted. One was for complete abstinence from food; another, abstinence from liquids; one proposed hot drinks, while a fourth was a stickler for cold; and as they could not agree, it was determined to have recourse to the *tesbih*,—a chaplet with which mussulmans consult fate. On this authority and that of a constellation given by an astronomer who was present, it was at length settled that the patient was to have no drink at all, but as much as he could eat, while he, without the least appetite, and nearly moribund, declined every thing brought to him.

As the Vizier's surgeon had some authority in the midst of such a mob, and was supported by the favorite wife of the Sidar, the discussions, propositions and arrangements were finally brought to a close. They had occupied four hours, and if it had not been for these two persons they would not have terminated till the following day at the same hour; but it should be remembered that to mend a leg is not a small thing at Herat, and for several reasons. It would be thought the height of impudence to have only one surgeon—*Jerrah*,—the more there are, the more they are worth; but his duty under these circumstances, is only to dress the wound. It is the dresser, the *shikesti-bend* who sets the bone, and the *hakim* who prescribes the regimen, &c.

"This melodrame at an end, I was in great hopes," continues Col. Ferrier, "that the poor man would be allowed a little quiet, and be left alone to obtain that repose of which he was in so much need; but instead of this, all his friends, and they were not a few,—came in succession to see and condole with him. This lasted into the night. On entering the room and leaving it, every one of these acquaintances offered up a prayer for the speedy cure of the wounded

limb; and as those who were stationary around the bed and belonged to the house, repeated the prayers in chorus, the effect was one uninterrupted litany, till by degrees every one retired to rest."

On the day succeeding this unfortunate fracture, Col. Ferrier called on his friend, the Sertib Lal Mohammed Khan, who, under the influence of enormous doses of calomel, was swollen to the size of a barrel! He could scarcely speak, and died three or four months after. The ignorance and presumption of the medical empirics of these countries, are beyond belief, and the faith which the inhabitants have in them is still more remarkable. "I could relate a hundred anecdotes," continues this traveller, "of their deplorable stupidity, of which I myself was a witness, and sometimes, though rarely, the laughable result."

During Col. Ferrier's previous *sejour* at Herat, he made the acquaintance of all the *hakims* (physicians) in the city—two of the most fashionable being Mirza Asker and Goolam Kader Khan, who made him numerous visits. "I had always mistaken them, had called one by the name of the other, and *vice versa*. Before I returned to Herat, Mirza Asker died of cholera; my astonishment, therefore, was very great when I saw him enter the Sidar's department to assist in setting his leg. Convinced of my error, I testified to him the happiness I felt in seeing him still in the land of the living. 'Ah!' replied the hakim, 'I was perfectly certain it must have been myself of whom you spoke to the Vizier, when you said that the wisest of the doctors of Herat was dead; you might mistake the name, never the person: no other individual but myself could be worthy of your admirable praises!' Though of quite a different opinion, I left Goolam Kader Khan in this delusion, and turning the conversation to the cholera, requested to have some information on the subject. 'O! with pleasure,' said the doctor. 'My ignorant colleagues no doubt find it difficult to treat, but to me it is child's play. Ask, rather, the whole population I have saved.'"

Among the thousand ridiculous prescriptions he had given, he said the most effectual had been the ninety-nine attributes of God, repeated in the presence of the patient by three old men, two young men and one maid—twice aloud and once to themselves! After having confided this marvellous recipe to me, he added, "God is merciful, and has never ceased to be favorable to the most humble of his creatures. During the whole of this unfortunate time, I flatter myself," he continued, "that I was especially the object of Divine solicitude. Listen, and you will be convinced of the fact. Two days before the cholera appeared within our walls, I was warned in a dream of its approach; my sleep was oppressed, and I was in a kind of nightmare, when the chamberlain of our excellent Vizier entered my apartment and requested me to make my daily visit to the palace. I rose immediately to obey the summons, when I was suddenly arrested by the sinister appearance of two strangers, dressed in red, of a pale and cadaverous aspect, who stood on the steps of the palace gate. They were the first to give me the salaam, and it was with difficulty that I returned it, so sad was the impression made upon me by their countenances, 'O! strangers,' said I, 'what kind of people are you? From whence do you come? What do you want?'

'We are the CHOLERA, *verba estim*,' said they, in a solemn voice, 'and we come by order of the Most High.' At these words I drew my *poostine* still closer around my chest, and held my breath to avoid the frightful infection which hung on theirs. After this precaution, having retreated a few steps and recommended my soul to God, I plucked up sufficient courage to ask them who they wanted. 'Neither you nor the Vizier nor his family; but we have more than one account to settle with certain unbelievers who have abused the Divine goodness and ignored the laws of the Prophet.'

'Dread messengers,' I replied, 'I am neither a drunkard, an opium nor a bengy eater,—leave me, therefore, in peace.' 'It is not with thee that we have to do, but with one of your colleagues, whose ignorance and incapacity have caused the death of so many people. His victims demand his life, and God, having taken their petition into consideration, has given us instructions to return with him.'

'At these words they disappeared, and I awoke. Though completely occupied with my numerous engagements and my large practice, I could think of nothing but the dream for two whole days. On the third I was the first person in the town attacked by cholera. During fourteen hours I suffered the most intolerable agonies, but, thanks to my *sang froid* and to science, I escaped death. These fourteen hours of suffering revealed to me which organs were particularly attacked. I discovered the causes of the disease, and at once comprehended what remedies should be applied. The day after my recovery, I made, as usual, my visit

to the Vizier Saheb,and found that Mirza Asker the most ignorant and decided rival I had, was there before me. I saw immediately by the hue of his countenance, that he was already attacked by cholera. The ignorant fellow, however, did not. A humane feeling came over me, and I informed him how he should treat himseif,—offered to prescribe for him,—but how can we escape from our destiny? Mirza Asker was the unbeliever described in my dream by the two strangers; and accordingly, six hours after, he died, and had to give an account to God of all the assassinations, — may God forgive him! — which in his life-time he committed with the drugs of infidels! My dream, its results, and my success in the treatment of this fearful malady are known to the population of Herat, and they blessed the name of him whom this scoundrel, this Asker has vilified. My reputation is now at its height, and I have so many patients that I cannot attend to them."

NEW YORK STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Either the mails at the West are conveyed in slow coaches, or packages repose on the way. Although the official report of this institution was transmitted to the legislature on the 7th of January, and presumed to have been immediately printed, a copy has but just arrived here.

Although so much has heretofore been written respecting this Asylum, which attained a high reputation under the medical superintendency of the late philosophical Dr. Brigham, this fourteenth annual report abounds with interesting statements. The Empire State does nothing by the halves in the way of public works or public benevolence. All the advantages which discovery or experience indicates as an appliance of any value in ministering to the comforts of the insane, are supposed to have been provided at Utica. Certainly nothing should be wanting to give completeness and efficiency to that great establishment.

The board of managers respectfully represent the positive necessity for more accommodations. Other similar asylums are demanded. They repeat the declaration of the medical officer, who last season apprised the people that the increase of the ratio of insanity over the increase of the ratio of population of the State during the last twenty-five years, has been sixty per cent. It is time to be alarmed! The dog star rages in our beloved country. Many who are not confined for lunacy, are mad enough to attract attention; and if very many now at large, were provided for somewhere, at the public charge, who are determined to turn the world upside down, if possible, society would not suffer such violence as it does, through the instrumentality of small reformers,

> "Who have all patriots grown,
> And talk of public good, but mean their own."

In 1856, $17,629 40 were expended in warming and ventilating by steam. In short, it takes considerable money to keep everything in good condition. The board appear to have conducted the business confided to them, with skill and judgment. The treasurer received from various sources $102,712 87, and paid out the same amount. The cost of certain fixtures has made a balance due him, in addition, of $24,240 96.

John P. Gray, M. D., is the superintendent and physician, E. H. Van Deuson, M. D., John B. Chapman, M. D., and L. A. Tourtellot, M. D., are medical assistants. The medical staff indicates the labor and responsibility devolving upon Dr. Gray, who has firmly established himself, and won the respect of the profession as well as the authorities of the State which he serves.

At the commencement of the year 1856, there were 455 patients. Within the year 242 new ones were received. A daily average of those under treatment was 454. There were discharged in 1856, recovered, 100; improved, 33; unimproved, 63; not insane, 8; died, 30; and there remained on the 30th November last, 461. By this time, unquestionably, the number has been considerably augmented.

Twenty-three pages of the pamphlet are occupied with Dr. Gray's exposition of the internal condition and general policy of the institution, and it is characterized throughout by a good, plain, common-sense statement, which plain people can understand. It is really a great art for men of learning to make themselves understood by persons in the ordinary walks of life. This is a public document emanating from the State. Every family so unfortunate as to have a relative in the asylum, becomes intensely interested in the every-day management and final results of the efforts made to relieve their friends from the mental blight that has come over them. They there fore read this annual official report. How im

portant, then, that it should be so constructed as to be fully comprehended. High-sounding technicalities which few can pronounce, and none but well-read medical scholars pretend to interpret, are provoking obstacles in the middle of an otherwise satisfactory paper, which some one is poring over with benevolent satisfaction.

The lunatic hospital reports of these latter years are model specimens, compared with some of the inflated, bombastic dissertations on insanity, which were sent abroad when these asylums were young in this country.

The asylum at Utica has stood the test of fourteen years, certainly, and its character has strengthened with its age. May its future career be as brilliant as its past history has been honorable to the humanity and philanthropy of the great and powerful State of New York.

We had it in mind to refer to the beautiful system of kindness, practised universally in the American lunatic establishments, which is infinitely superior to all other instrumentalities at the command of a medical officer. It is the lever that moves society outside the walls of a hospital, where, in theory at least, the masses are presumed to have the exercise of their reason. If it calms the perturbed passions in the strife of life, where ambition takes the bit between the teeth and runs a tilt for position, wealth, family influence, and political ascendency, regardless of the moral obligations to love our neighbor as ourselves, how potential, then, must be the calm dignity of kindness, in all the minute relations and intercourse with the insane. May God prosper the administration of the laws of kindness.

OLD PHYSIC STRICTURED.

BY ABRM. LIVEZEY M. D., NEW HOPE, PA.

NO. I. — HYDROPHOBIA.

The painful recital of cases of hydrophobia, ever and anon reported in the newspapers, has induced me recently to examine more closely the views of medical men thereon, and the treatment employed by old physic in this terrific and ever mortal disease. This review has, if possible, exhibited to my mind more serious and destructive errors, both in theory and practice, than any it has been my duty to expose in my preceding articles; errors so gross and astounding, as to be almost a matter of surprise to myself.

Upon the completion of this review, I ask a thinking public, (for doctors will not *think*), to judge, whether the regular practice in this frightful disease is based upon any sound pathological principle,—or how far it is calculated to relieve the patient and subdue the fell poison which is coursing in his system, to the *certain* destruction of the unhappy and unfortunate victim; for the "medical faculty" do not recognize a single cure of hydrophobia, after that dreadful disease has declared itself by its characteristic symptoms.

Reports of cures have, however, time and again been made by Thompson and his disciples, — but as they are not from a "legitimate source," they are deemed to be not sufficiently well authenticated, to secure the credence of the "profession."

"Post-mortem examinations show an absence of all definite or constant traces of organic change," and give no clue to a rational treatment of the disease. Indeed, with the *new* light which Dr. Dickson has cast upon the world of medical science, it is perfect folly longer to seek a knowledge of the treatment of disease in the dissecting room, or by the oft-repeated farce of post-mortem inspections.

True, there is "frequent inflammation of the inner surface of the mucous-membrane of the stomach" observed, which is sometimes *softened;* and all authors speak of the fauces, œsophagus and bronchial tubes being filled with a tough, stringy mucus, — and yet the general fact above mentioned, with the "nature of the symptoms, sufficiently mark the disease as belonging, secondarily, to the nervous system." From whence the "excessive nervous irritability and apprehension" — the "spasmodic contraction of the muscles of the fauces" — the general "paroxysms or convulsions" — if a *something* did not *primarily* exert an unfavorable influence upon that nervous system?

With a near approximation to truth, may we not assert that these symptoms are produced by the impression of the rabid virus, secreted from the various follicles and glands, and poured out upon the mucous membrane of the alimenary canal, and thence by the reflex action of the nervous system, are the spasms produced, — acting as centres or sources of irritation, as do teething in infants, and indigestible substances in the stomachs of children, both of which are capable of exciting spasmodic action and convulsions in their uninured organisms?

That the virus is thus secreted, is indisputa-

ble, — or whence power of the rabid animal to inoculate his fellow by a mere abrasion of the cuticle and a suffusion of the part with a little saliva, or mucus? Whence also the "signs of digestive disorder" — the "difficulty in the deglusion of liquids" — the coming on of "singular nervous paroxysms" — the "sensation of stricture or oppression felt about the throat and chest," — and the "painfully embarrassed breathing?" Whence also the "copious secretion of a viscid mucus in the fauces, which the patient spits out with a sort of frantic vehemence and rapidity," or pulls out the the "viscid secretion" with his fingers, which are "characteristic features of the disease," as well as "one of the most striking phenomena of the case?" — *Prof. Wood.*

Let us now examine, for a moment, the effect upon the system of a small portion of variolous or small-pox virus, introduced by inoculation, and mark the analogy existing between the action of the rabid virus, and the virus of the small-pox, — milder in the latter case, 't is true, by reason of the less degree of virulency of the poison, — but yet amply strong enough to manifest the striking resemblance.

In due time after inoculation for small-pox, the stomach becomes disordered, the tongue coated, with general pain and distress. Mucus also collects in the fauces and bronchial tubes, giving occasion, not unfrequently, to oppressed breathing or constriction of the chest, and in children to convulsions also. But in this case, the system, in a great degree, frees itself by the development of a copious crop of pustules; whilst the physician rationally gives emetics where indicated, or mild purges to keep the stomach free from an accumulation of foul secretions, whereby the disease is soon conducted to a favorable termination.

The whole system then, the external surface, and the mucous membrane, which is a mere prolongation of the cuticle, the solids, and the fluids of the body, are poisoned by a minute spec of variolous matter inserted beneath the skin; — or whence the power to infect others (not protected), by the exhalations from the body, from which arises a peculiar and disagreeable odor.

In the commencement of the manifestation of hydrophobic symptoms, "acute pain, or shocks of pain, are now and then felt in the epigastrium," where the poisonous virus is most largely effused. The "tongue is generally furred; often a burning in the throat, with thirst which cannot be allayed;" and, finally, the "skin is covered with a viscid and offensive sweat;" — proving, also, that the whole system, as in the case of small-pox, is under the influence of the virus.

In the treatment of small-pox, the physician assists the recuperative powers to throw off the poison, by the removal of the morbid secretions as they arise; but in the treatment of hydrophobia, where there is ten-fold greater need of such natural assistance, he either debilitates the system by resorting to blood-letting, or fastens these poisonous effusions within and upon him, by the continued administration of opium, morphia, chloroform, and other similar agencies.

More definitely, then, what are the indications for a thorough, energetic, and successful treatment of hydrophobia, as manifested in the human subject?

Wherefore are we recommended by our standard text-books, daily to evacuate the morbid secretions fron the muciparous and other glands throughout the alimentary canal, in cases of epidemic fever? Why do they advise emetics where there is oppression from accumulation of mucus, or where, by the presence of nausea and vomiting, there is further evidence of disordered stomach?

This, though, is rational treatment; but wherefore do they, in a case of hydrophobia, fasten down those more poisonous secretions upon the patient, by successively trying "opium —acetate of lead—tobacco—mercury—arsenic — venesection, *ad deliquium animi* — cantharides—white hellebore—injecting warm water into the veins—or solution of morphia," &c., &c. In the name of humanity and mercy—in the name of the hecatombs of victims which each generation has yielded, we ask why this treatment? The patient is not only not permitted to die a natural death, but the physician virtually, and actually assists, by such a course, a lethiferous poison still further to crush all nervous energy—to paralyze all vital action. Would not every case of epidemic fever, or other malignant disease, terminate fatally, under a treatment such as that to which the rabid patient is subjected?

The nature of the disease, the symptoms manifested, and the post-mortem appearances, (so far as they are worth anything), indicate the use of such medicines and means as will at once by their diffusive nature penetrate and cleanse the pulmonic and digestive apparatus of the morbid secretions as rapidly as they are effused, and stimulate and uphold the vitality of the nervous system. If these morbid secretions are not removed, but are fastened within

and upon the patient, they must necessarily act powerfully upon the sentient extremities of the afferent nerves, and by the reflex action are conveyed back to the circumference by the efferent nerves—the fifth and eighth pairs particularly—to the face, pharynx and larynx, and upon this excito-motory system of Sir Marshall Hall, the violent spasms mainly depend.

Holding it to be a self-evident truth, that the hydrophobic virus is poured out upon the mucous membrane — otherwise the disease could not be communicated by a *bite* or the saliva—the indication in treatment is to remove the *cause*, and the *effect* will of necessity cease.

For this purpose we should have prepared the following tincture:—

Myrrh 1 lb., Capsicum 2 oz., Brandy 1 gall. Let these macerate about ten days in a warm place—decant, and add to the clear tincture ½lb. each of lobelia seed, capsicum, and valerian. After standing an additional ten days, the tincture is fit for use.

ADMINISTRATION. —When the undoubted symptoms of hydrophobia, which are known to every one, manifest themselves, with the paroxysms supervening, let the wound or cicatrice be kept constantly wet with cloths saturated with this tincture,—use the hot stimulating foot bath, or the warm vapor bath—if the surface be cold and cramped, give a strong infusion of bayberry and capsicum, with from two to three table-spoonfuls of the above tincture, every 20, 30, or 60 minutes, according to the severity of the symptoms and the obstinacy of the paroxysms, repeating the same until free vomiting ensues. As an adjuvant, to shorten the convulsions, chloroform may be inhaled, and injections of the above tea and tincture may be conjoined; indeed, the case may occur, where the difficulty of swallowing is so great, that our whole dependence, for the time being, must be upon these latter means, conjoined with the hot, or vapor bath. In such cases vitality is so much depressed, that these stimulo-relaxant injections are generally retained, until they impress the whole system, and produce full vomiting.

The *modus operandi* of this treatment will be apparent upon a moment's reflection. In the first place, the astringent or "anti-canker" infusion of the bayberry, rendered diffusive and stimulating by the capsicum, is a powerful detergent to the fauces and alimentary canal, while it stimulates, at the same time, the whole glandular system to a more healthy action. The stimulating foot baths have a derivative effect, and the vapor bath both assists in relaxing spasm, equalizing the circulation, and throwing all effete matters to the surface,—and thus are those "copious offensive perspirations" removed; while the compound tincture of lobelia, containing, as it does, the sanative properties of the myrrh, the diffusive, stimulating and warming properties of the brandy and capsicum, the tonic and sedative effects of the valerian upon the nervous system, and the potent, antispasmodic, diffusible and revivifying properties of the lobelia, when thus combined, exert a generally recuperative power by relaxing nervous spasms; freeing the system (by emesis) of all irritating, poisonous secretions; by stimulating the organs of vitality to healthy action, and restoring the whole economy to its wonted healthy play.

After the bath, the vomiting, &c., the patient will become tranquil, and pass, perhaps, several hours in a refreshing slumber,—to awaken, however, to a renewal of the paroxysms, dread of water, &c., because fresh quantities of poison are secreted and thrown upon the *primæ viæ*. These paroxysms must be overpowered, and the poison removed again and again by a *repetition* of the *same course* till all is calm again; administering during the *remissions* quinine and hydro-cyanic acid largely, and repeatedly; and by thus persevering for a few days, we shall have the pleasurable satisfaction of witnessing a recovery from a disease which is emphatically the opprobrium of medical science.

Then would Prof. Wood, (and other learned authorities), be no longer under the humiliating necessity of declaring the *ignorance* of the profession to the world, in the following language:—"The whole magazine of therapeutics has been exhausted in the treatment of hydrophobia." "I do not pretend," concludes he, "to recommend any course of treatment, where I can adduce *no sound therapeutical principle* in its support!"

Further remarks upon hydrophobia, its nature, &c., and cases of bites of venomous serpents, will be cited hereafter, which were cured by attention to the rational principles herein described, though by different medicinal agencies.

Progress appears to have been made towards the organization of a free city hospital, as petitioned for by the physicians of Boston. The Lying-In Hospital remains with closed doors, having neither patients nor funds.

THE N. E. DISTRICT MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION, OF MICHIGAN.

The annual meeting was held at Mount Clemens, Macomb Co., on the 10th of March, and called to order by Dr. Seth L. Andrews, who made a report on his meteorological observations from Jan. 7th, 1856, to the present time.

A committee of three, consisting of Drs. Stockwell, Willson and Hubbard, were appointed to report the names of new members. The committee reported the names of Dr. W. C. Smith, of Troy, Dr. R. G. Jennings, of Lapeer, and Dr. O. B. Reed, of Newport, who were admitted as members.

A committee of three was appointed to report names for officers for the ensuing year. The committee consisted of Drs. Hubbard, Willson and Chapman, who reported the following persons, who upon motion were unanimously elected.

President: Dr. C. M. Stockwell, of Port Huron.

Vice President: Dr. Chester McCollum, of Auburn.

Secretary: Dr. P. A. Knight, of Utica.

Treasurer: Dr. John P. Willson, of Pontiac.

Dr. P. A. Knight offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That G. H. Lewis be received as an honorary member of this Association.

Dr. Stockwell, elect, having taken the chair,

On motion of Dr. Taylor, a vote of thanks was tendered to the retiring officers for the faithful and judicious discharge of their duties.

Dr. Phillips, of Oakland, reported several cases of encephalus, (Query. What is meant by encephalus?) which he had recently met with in his practice, and presented one interesting specimen, which he had presented, for examination.

Drs. Andrews and Stockwell reported several cases of a similar nature.

On motion, the Association proceeded to elect delegates to the National Medical Association, to be held at Nashville, Tennessee, on the first Tuesday of May next, which resulted as follows:

Oakland: Drs. J. P. Willson and W. C. Smith.

Macomb: Drs. S. L. Andrews and J. M. Chapman.

Lapeer: Drs. O. P. Strobridge and R. G. Jennings.

St. Clair: Drs. O. B. Reed and C. M. Stockwell.

On motion, the Association proceeded to elect delegates to the State Medical Association, to be held at Ann Arbor on the last Thursday of March next, and resulted as follows:

L. A. Hubbard, of Macomb.
J. P. Willson, of Oakland.
A. R. Stone, of Lapeer.
O. B. Reed, of St. Clair.

Dr. Taylor made a report of a post-mortem examination of James Warner, of Macomb Co., whereupon

Dr. Jennings offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That we exonerate Dr. Taylor from all the imputations cast upon his character by Dr. Terry, of Detroit, by an article published in the *Independent*, relating to the medico-legal examination of James Warner, of Macomb Co., before the late Circuit Court of said county; and furthermore we believe Dr. Taylor made a faithful and accurate autopsy of said case; and that we believe his conclusions as to said Warner's death were warranted by said autopsy.

After some discussion, the Association, not deeming it proper to act in the matter of the above resolution, it being of a personal nature unless both parties were present or represented, it was laid upon the table.

On motion, the Association proceeded to elect the usual standing committees, which resulted as follows:

Action of Remedies: Dr. Hubbard, of Macomb.

Action of Remedies: Dr. Paddack, of Oakland.

Epidemics: Dr. H. Taylor, Jr., of Macomb.

Epidemics: Dr. W. C. Smith, of Oakland.

Surgical Practice: Dr. P. A. Knight, of Macomb.

Surgical Practical: Dr. Willson, of Oakland.

Obstetrics: Dr. Kenny, of Lapeer.

Obstetrics: Dr. Phillips, of Macomb.

Dr. Stockwell presented the name of Dr. Reuben Crowell, who was accepted as a member of the Association.

On motion, the matter of charges against Dr. Buffum was taken up. A communication from the Doctor was received, read and placed on file.

On motion, the whole matter was laid on the table until the June meeting of the Association,

and the Secretary was directed to furnish Dr. Buffum with a copy of the charges.

Dr. Andrews proposed the names of Drs. Randolph Bancroft, of Romeo, Dennis Cooley, of Washington, and Neil Gray, of Ray, as honorary members, who were elected as such.

Dr. P. A. Knight offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the proceedings of this Association be printed in the *Peninsular Advocate*, and a copy of it be sent to each of the several committees.

Several very instructing cases were reported by Drs. Knight, Taylor and Andrews.

Dr. Knight offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at Port Huron on the second Wednesday of June next.

On motion, Dr. Andrews was permitted to use the meteorological materials of this Association for State purpose.

On motion, the Association voted the request of the President's annual address for publication in the *Peninsular Advocate*.

Dr. Hubbard offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the proceedings of this Association be presented to each of the medical journals in this State for publication.

Dr. Smith, of Troy, offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That any member of a standing committee, failing to furnish his required report, be subjected to a fine of one dollar.

Dr. Taylor offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Association, it is a duty incumbent upon the present Legislature to pass an act for the registration of births and deaths.—*Penin. Jour. of Med.*

MEN OF CENTRAL ASIA.

Such is the extreme jealousy and fanaticism of the Afghanistan tribes, that it is almost impossible for Europeans to hold any intercourse with them, or the people beyond, who are offshoots from the same original stock, although bearing different names and influenced by a higher degree of holy selfishness and pride. Of all the people, however, known to travellers who have had the boldness to brave unheard-of dangers for the sake of penetrating into the interior, the Beloches are the most extraordinary. A Beloche is absolute in his family. They are as savage as wild beasts, and being nomads, range with unrestrained freedom over the deserts. Complete liberty is an imperious necessity of their nature; and they are as proud of horrible crimes as good men are of their benevolent acts. The law of savage revenge is the only one strictly observed. When blood has been shed, eternal hatred, which outlives generations in families in which the deed occurred, is the result. A reconciliation, cemented by marriage, or the kind offices of a *Peer*—which means a holy man—does not change the never-dying purpose of having revenge. To gratify this one all-absorbing sentiment, the Beloche will track his victim with a quiet perseverance perfectly amazing, and ultimately, either openly or by a snare, glut his savage soul by cutting the throat of the one he has been seeking, with a refined barbarity incredibly cruel.

When two Beloches, of adverse tribes, inspired by a family hatred, who never even saw each other, undertake to seek redress in their way, they have a marvellous instinct in finding the foe. They scent each other like pointers, but, in coming in sight for the first time, they regard each other with an apparent quiet demeanor and in silence, for a moment; but this calm is a sure death-warrant for one of the two. They have no pity. If unarmed, they will tear each other like tigers, or strangle each other without making the least cry. This is a peculiarity of the people of Seistan—a region traversed by Alexander the Great, in his all-conquering progress towards India.

These horrible members of the human family are splendidly developed, handsome, nervous, impulsive, with an olive complexion, and an expression of ferocity. They pretend to be mussulmans, but their religious notions are a mixture of Islamism, Christianity, and Idolatry. A certain something, called *Peer Kisri*, is next in authority to God. When they swear by him, then, and only then, can they be trusted. Mohammed is considered a prophet.

In their marches, they move with a rapidity quite unknown to other countries, as they will out-walk a horse; and instances are cited where a person has thus tired out three horses in succession.

These dreadful men eat but little. They believe implicitly in auguries—so that the cry of a wild animal, the sight of a serpent, a bird on the wing, a flight of birds, or a troop of wild asses which separate two divisions, is sufficient to stop them short in the midst of a journey. They will never leave a place where

they happen to be, before the sun, under which they were warned by auguries, has set and risen again. This delay is to allow Fate time to alter her intentions. When an opportunity for pillage arrives, their activity is intense. On a dromedary they sit back to back, to have a complete panoramic view of every movement of living things on earth, or the heavens above. Prisoners they cannot conveniently carry away, are killed, without apology, on the spot. For the chance of stealing a pocket-handkerchief, they will go many miles, fight in pools of blood, and endure hardships that no others could bear. So inveterate is the thieving propensity, that two friends, two brothers, or even father and son, take care not to sleep near each other, so distrustful are they, well knowing each will attempt to steal from the other, if they are too near. They will sometimes swear very solemnly by Peer Kisri, not to approach each other till the hour of starting. It is not an uncommon circumstance for a Beloche to murder his companion, and that, too, without the faintest glimmerings of remorse, for his dress, which may not be worth fifty cents.

Europeans—for they have no knowledge of America—are considered as cast-aways, deriving their origin from genii, who, being in league with the devil, has taught them how to make gold, endowed them with the power of the evil eye, and the faculty of finding hidden treasures. Of this latter grace, they are more and more confirmed, because every traveller who has visited their country is invariably groping among old ruins, turning over fallen columns, and making notes in a book.

Medical Society at Montevedeo.—At the last anniversary meeting of *De la Sociedad de Medicina*, in November, the presidential term of Dr. Don Henrique Munoz having expired, the members elected the following distinguished medical gentlemen to the several offices affixed to their names:—Don Francisco A. Vidal, M. D., Presidente; Don Gabriel Mendoza, M. D., Vice Presidente; Don Domingo Parodi, M. D., Secretario; Don Louis Michaelson M. D., Pro Secretario; Don Patricio Ramos, M. D., Tesorero, and Don Julio Lenoble, M.D., Bibliotecario. Comision del periodico, Senores, Ferreire, Michaelson y Neves. Id de Reglamento, Senores Mendoza, Vavasseur y Rossi. Further particulars respecting this Society will be mentioned hereafter.

MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING AT ANN ARBOR, MARCH 25th, 1857.

The meeting was called to order at 10 o'clock, A. M., by the President, Dr. J. H. Beech; the roll was called by the Secretary, and the minutes of last meeting read and approved.

In consequence of the non-arrival of many expected members, the regular order of business was suspended, and the reading of the President's address deferred till 2 o'clock, P. M.

The Society then procceded to the election of new members, when the following gentlemen were proposed and elected:

Dr. G. E. Corbin, of Stockbridge.
" E. C. Dutton, of Eaton Rapids.
" Axford, of Detroit.
" Fanner, of Ann Arbor.

On motion of Dr. Beech, Dr. Wm. Sprague, of Coldwater, was elected an honorary member, and on motion of Dr. Pitcher, Dr. G. B. Russel, of Detroit, was elected an honorary member.

It was moved and carried that a Committee of five be appointed by the President to nominate officers for the ensuing year.

The President appointed the following Committee:

Dr. Arnold, of Monroe.
" Stockwell, of Port Huron.
" Axford, of Detroit.
" Whelan, of Hillsdale.
" Collins, of Eaton Rapids.

Dr. Pitcher presented a paper from Dr. Morse Stewart, on the Meteorology of Detroit, and moved that the same be read by title and referred to Committee on Publication. Carried.

Dr. Pitcher also presented a paper, a Statistical Examination of Diseases in his practice during the past year, which was on motion read by title and referred to Committee on Publication.

Dr. Stockwell remarked that he believed that a change of time for holding the meetings would result in bringing a larger attendance, and moved that a Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the matter.

Dr. Whelan also spoke in favor of changing the time, and advocated holding the meetings in Detroit, instead of Ann Arbor.

Dr. Pitcher moved that the Committee be instructed to inquire and report in regard to the expediency of holding biennial meetings at Lansing during the session of the State Legislature, and on alternate years at such place as the Society shall determine. Carried.

The President appointed the following Committee on this subject:

Dr. A. B. Palmer, of Ann Arbor.
" N. D. Stebbins, of Detroit.
" C. M. Stockwell, of Port Huron.

The Society then proceeded to the election of delegates to the American Medical Association. On motion, Dr. L. H. Cobb, of Detroit, and Dr. Z. Pitcher, of Detroit, were appointed to serve as delegates, when the Society adjourned to 2 o'clock, P. M.

Afternoon Session, 2 P. M.

Meeting called to order by the President; minutes of morning session read and corrected.

On motion of Dr. Palmer, Dr. J. F. Weeds was elected a member.

The Society then listened to the excellent address of the President, "On the Position and Duties of the Society."

Dr. Palmer moved a vote of thanks to the President for his excellent address, and that he be requested to furnish a copy for publication in the Transactions of the Society, which was unanimously carried.

Reports of Committees being in order, the Committee on Nomination reported as follows:

For President: Dr. N. D. Stebbins, of Detroit.

For Vice President: Dr. C. M. Stockwell, of Port Huron.

For Secretary: Dr. E. P. Christian, of Detroit.

For Treasurer: Dr. S. A. Douglas, of Ann Arbor.

Report accepted and nominations confirmed y the Society.

The President elect, tendered his thanks to the Society and begged the privilege of declining, but on motion of Dr. Pitcher was conducted to the chair by the Nominating Committee.

Dr. Palmer, chairman of Committee on changing time and place of future meetings, reported as follows:

Resolved, That the constitution be so amended that biennial meetings of this Society shall be held at Lansing during the session of the Legislature, on the 3d Wednesday of January; and the alternate meetings at such time and place as the Society at its meetings not held at Lansing, by vote from year to year, may direct. Report accepted and resolution unanimously adopted.

Dr. Beech moved that the next annual meeting be held at Detroit on the 3d Wednesday of January, 1858. Carried.

On motion of Dr. Palmer, the following new members were elected:

Dr. S. J. Redfield.
" J. B. Ford.
" Dr. G. B. Willson.
" H. M. Lilly.

Dr. Beech presented a paper, a statistical analysis and registration of the diseases in his practice during the past year, with remarks, of which he gave an abstract, and the paper was referred to Committee on Publication.

Dr. Christian gave a synopsis of his report, which was referred to same Committee.

The Society then proceeded to fill up the number of delegates to the American Medical Association, and the following gentlemen were appointed:

Dr. Patterson, of Tecumseh.
" Stebbins, of Detroit.
" Downer, of Northville.
" Ewing, of Dexter.
" Gorton, of Detroit.
" Douglass, of Ann Arbor.
" Davenport, of Detroit.
" Landon, of Monroe.

Dr. Palmer moved that the appointees have power to appoint substitutes and also to fill up their number to ten, that being the number to which this Society is entitled. Carried.

On motion, the following Committee was appointed by the President, on Publication, viz.: Drs. Palmer, Sager and Denton.

On motion of Dr. Christian, Dr. Stockwell, of Port Huron, was appointed Chairman of a Committee to report at the next meeting, on the Diseases and Topography of the North East Section of the State.

On motion of Dr. Stockwell, Dr. Sager was appointed Chairman of a Committee to report at next meeting, on Puerperal Diseases.

On motion of Dr. Palmer, Dr. Dubois was appointed to report on Rheumatism.

Dr. G. E. Corbin was appointed to report on Diseases and Topography of Livingston and Eaton Counties.

Dr. Thompson also on Diseases and Topography of his section.

Dr. Collins also on Diseases and Topography of his section.

Dr. Davenport also on Diseases and Topography of Wayne Co.

Dr. Axford to report on Vaccination.

Dr. W. W. Hipolite was elected a member and appointed to report on Zimotic Poisons of this State.

Dr. Palmer was appointed to report on Diseases of Children, and Dr. Denton to report on Diseases of the Aged.

Dr. Denton, in behalf of the Faculty of the college, extended an invitation to the Society, to an entertainment at the residence of Prof. Douglass, given in honor of the graduating class.

Moved by Dr. Beech, that the invitation of the faculty be accepted, and the thanks of the Society be returned.—*Penin. Jour. of Med.*

ACCIDENTAL POISONING.

Melancholy cases similar to those occurring frequently in the United States, occasionally take place in England and France, but rarely; because the law is exceedingly exacting, and makes the dispensing apothecary feel that he is responsible for his mistakes. There is no law against the sale of poisons in this country. Joseph Burroughs, a young man of gentlemanly appearance, surrendered to take his trial for the manslaughter of William Marcooley. Mr. Metcalfe, in his opening speech for the prosecution, proceeded to state that the prisoner, at the time of the occurrence, was assistant to Mr. Budd, a chemist at Brompton, and the deceased was a respectable tradesman residing in the same neighborhood. It appeared that on the 27th of December the deceased felt slightly indisposed, and he sent to the shop of the prisoner's master for an ounce of castor oil, and the boy who was sent on the errand was served by the prisoner, and he took back with him to his master's house what he considered to be castor oil, and the unfortunate deceased took the greater portion of it. He was almost immediately seized with convulsions, and although a medical man was sent for directly, his aid was of no avail, and he died shortly afterwards. A *post mortem* examination of the body took place, and it turned out that the death had been caused by the administration of prussic acid, and upon the remaining portion of the oil in the phial being analyzed it was found to contain a considerable portion of that ingredient. The learned counsel, in conclusion, said that it was under these circumstances that the prisoner was charged with having, by his gross negligence, caused the death of the deceased; and although, of course, it was not for a moment imputed to him that he had the slightest intention of causing so lamentable a result, yet the law in such cases required that all persons dealing with such deadly ingredients, should exercise a proper degree of caution for the prevention of any mischievous consequences, and if they neglected to use that caution they were answerable for the result. Witnesses were then examined who made out the statement of the learned counsel for the prosecution. It appeared that, at the time the boy went to the shop for the castor oil, the prisoner was engaged in making up a lotion for the eye, which should have contained a drachm and a half of prussic acid, and it was suggested that he had, by mistake, put the prussic acid into the castor oil instead of the lotion, as the latter, upon being analyzed, was found to contain only a most minute portion of the acid. The boy, however, who fetched the castor oil, was only enabled to state that he saw the prisoner take down two bottles of a large size, and take his phial to the part of the shop where prescriptions were made up, and he then saw him go to a cupboard and put a book in it, but he could give no information from which bottle the prisoner poured out what he gave him in the phial. Mr. Budd, the prisoner's master, said that he carried on business as a chemist in Brompton-row, Brompton, and that the prisoner was in his service, and attended in the shop, and it was his duty to make out prescriptions and serve customers, and he kept a book which he produced, in which he entered all the transactions that took place in the shop. On the day of this occurrence, the prisoner had to make up an eye lotion that should have contained a drachm and a half of prussic acid, and he appeared to have made an entry in the book to the effect that he had prepared this lotion. This witness appeared to answer the questions that were put to him by the counsel for the prosecution with some reluctance, and seemed to treat the matter very lightly; Mr. Metcalfe frequently requesting him not to fence with the questions that he put to him, and also complaining of his laughing while giving evidence, observing that the question under discussion was one that ought not to be treated in such a manner. He stated that prussic acid and all other poisons were kept in a cupboard by themselves; but very

little information could be obtained from him as to the contents of the bottles that were upon the shelves. In answer to one of the questions put to him, he stated that after the death of the deceased, and inquiries were made at his shop in reference to the castor oil that had been purchased there, the prisoner wished to know whether he had not better send for the eye lotion he had supplied, and he had told him that he had better not do so, and he said the reason he said so was that he thought an "unpleasant construction" might be put upon it, as he knew it contained prussic acid. Serjeant Ballantine having addressed the jury for the defence, a number of respectable medical and other witnesses were called to speak to the prisoner's character, and they spoke very favorably of him, and stated that he was also remarkable for the care he took in making up the prescriptions he had to prepare. The jury retired for nearly an hour to consider their verdict, and they then came into court and returned a verdict of *Not Guilty*, at the same time stating that they were desirous of expressing their strong reprobation of the careless manner in which poisons were generally dispensed. The prisoner was ordered to be immediately discharged from custody.

REMOVAL OF THE LOWER JAW.

The removal of the entire lower jaw for necrosis has been performed by Perry, of England; Ganwesky, of Westphalia; Maisonneuve, of Paris; Pitha, of Prague, and Heyfelder, of Erlangen; also by McClellan, Carnochan, Marsh, Jas. R. Wood, and Dr. Blackman, in Ohio, of our own country. These cases are of interest, inasmuch as their results furnish us with illustrations of the wonderful reparative powers of nature, but they can hardly be classed with the operations for osteo-sarcoma executed by Professor Syme, Mr. Cusack, of Dublin; Mr. O'Shaughnessy, of India; by Dieffenbach, of Berlin; by Dr. Mott in the case of the negro "Prince;" by Dr. Ackley, of Cleveland, and I think I may add, by myself. In Professor Syme's case of removal of the entire lower jaw, the patient died suddenly the day after the operation, as was supposed, from suffocation produced by the retraction of the tongue. (*Contributions to the Pathology and Practice of Surgery*, p. 21.) Mr. Cusack informed me in June, 1853, that some fifteen years before, he had, for osteo-sarcoma, extirpated the entire bone, and that his patient died a week afterwards, during his absence from town, in a supposed epileptic fit. Dr. Signoroni, of Padua, is reported to have exhibited to the Medical Congress of that city, September 27, 1842, a patient, from whom, by successive operations, he had removed the entire lower jaw affected with osteo-sarcoma. The patient was then in perfect health. Mr. William Hetling, surgeon to the Bristol Infirmary, England, reported in the *Transactions of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association*, 1833, p. 277, a case of very extensive osteo-sarcoma of the lower jaw; in which the greater part of that bone was removed, and in this report he makes the following statement: "Mr Liston, of this city, lately removed the whole lower jaw in a case of this kind; and recovery would certainly have taken place had not an attack of the erysipelatous inflammation, then epidemic, supervened, and proved fatal."

The most extraordinary operation on record is unquestionably that reported by Professor Syme, in the *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*, vol. xxx, 1828, p. 286. The illustrations there given present truly a frightful picture:

"The mouth was placed diagonally across the face, and had suffered such monstrous distortion as to measure fifteen inches in circumference. The throat of the patient was almost obliterated, there being only about two inches of it above the sternum, so that the cricoid cartilage of the larynx was on a level with that bone. When the tumor was viewed in profile it extended eight inches from the front of the neck. It completely filled the mouth, and occupied all the space below it from jaw to jaw. The tongue was thrust cut of its place, and lay between the teeth and cheek of the right side," &c.

The jaw was removed from the right articulation to the left angle, and had a speedy recovery. The tumor weighed 4½ lbs.! In the 38th volume of the same journal (1832), Professor Syme states (p. 321) that the patient continued quite well, "masticating and articulating perfectly, and having nothing very disagreeable in his appearance." On the same page he refers to a preparation removed after death by Dr. Martin, of Chatham, in which the mass protruding from the patient's mouth measured at its neck twenty-one inches in circumference, and weighed 8 pounds!

I have referred to the cases in which the entire lower jaw has been removed for necro-

sis; and, in connection with this subject, I would remark that I have in my possession the entire jaw affected with that form of the disease produced by the action of phosphorus among those engaged in the manufacture of lucifer matches. The operation was performed by Dr. Marsh, of Cincinnati, some three years since, at the infirmary; but the patient survived it only a few months. This case was, therefore, prior to that in the practice of Dr. Jas. R. Wood, which was reported in the May number of the *New York Journal of Medicine*. Dr. Marsh's patient came from Nuremberg, Germany, a place of considerable notoriety in consequence of the prevalence of the phosphorus disease.

COMMUNICATIONS.

[Communicated for the Medical World.]

MEDICAL MATTERS IN CONNECTICUT.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Ever since the publication of a correspondent's letter from New Hampshire, I have been reflecting on the singular medical mutations that have taken place in this old respectable State in my time. Dr. Franklin is reported to have said that New Jersey was like a barrel of cider tapped at both ends. Philadelphia drew out from one head, and New York at the other. It is somewhat so in Connecticut,—since Massachusetts on one side and New York beyond, are constantly extracting some of its vitality. Between the two, they charm away a large per centage of our young men. While some are converted into leading merchants, and great capitalists, not a few of them became lawyers and physicians.

As a general fact, the surgeons and physicians of Connecticut are native-born, and educated at the Medical department, or school of Yale College. There have been strong men in those chairs. Who has been more commanding as an operator than the renowned Dr. Nathan Smith? In what institution has there been a professor who excelled Dr. Tully in all the learning of the age? Pray, where can a teacher be found who is superior to the present able expounder of the true principles of surgery, Dr. Knight?

Extensively spread over the Union are eminent medical men who obtained their professional qualifications in the shady city of elms. And with us are very many who were educated in other parts of New England. We have sent off more, however, than have been received in exchange. The field is too circumscribed in the country towns, for the exercise of very striking talents in our vocation. New Haven, Hartford, Norwich, New London and Middletown are the principal centres for lucrative business. But however superior, pecuniarily, or for the growth of a reputation, over the rural regions farther back, those localities may be, they fall infinitely below Boston and New York, in every aspect in which they may be contemplated, either for the acquisition of property by practice, or a brilliant reputation.

If one of our surgeons accomplishes a victory by his skill with instruments, there is no journal at hand to herald the circumstance to the world, which in the first class cities multiplies patients, augments fees and gives position among lesser lights. Such, too, is the misfortune of our physicians, who, as you well know, from a personal acquaintance with many of them, are admirable practitioners. No Connecticut medical journal has a being, to direct public attention to their merits. Unfortunately for us, and the legitimate medical literature of the age, our physicians are too much engrossed to communicate the results of their observations. No correspondents write better and contribute richer gems to the casket, when they do feel the spirit move. Occasionally a faint glimmering of enterprise has seemed to foreshadow the attempt to have a medical periodical of our own. Nothing, however, has been heard upon that subject for a long while, and it is possible the suggestion is forgotten. Drafts might be made upon Dr. Knight, alone, to keep the pages of a quarterly in a prosperous show of original materials. The fact is, and I must apologize for them, our physicians are extremely modest, and do not like to hazard opinions and present statements that might provoke criticism or inaugurate a controversy. We are satisfied that the faculty of the Medical School are gentlemen of very superior attainments. Were they seated on some of those easy cushions in metropolitan institutions which command the daily attendance of several hundred students, they would create a sensation. Were they to give themselves, even but partially, to writing upon the science they teach, we should all be the wiser for it.

Our State society is a pleasant family organization, which exerts a happy influence on the

medical character of the Commonwealth. Its publications are not numerous. At the annual meeting there is usually a good discourse by some member of standing, which has invariably been favorably spoken of abroad, when published.

With respect to hospitals, infirmaries, cliniques, &c., neither the population, commerce nor wealth of the people requires the amount of medical machinery which is the pride of those who are at the head of them in other States. In New Haven there is the substance of things hoped for—but if there are fewer paupers to be doctored at the public expense, there is also a scarcity of millionaires to endow medical and surgical charities. With the peculiar location of Connecticut, acted upon perpetually by Boston and New York, as already admitted, we cannot, in any coming period, have the medical prominence which we should have had were we differently circumstanced.

No asylum for the insane can be superior to the Retreat at Hartford. It is conducted upon an eminently humane system, and with success. Then the Deaf and Dumb Asylum has the lead of all others in America by seniority. I beg you to pardon for referring to it. It is not a medical infirmary; still, it is something that we, in common with yourselves, and all friends to the reason-bereft, glory in having sustained.

Perhaps, on another occasion, I may open the book of chronicles to show who our Connecticut medical authors are—point out what they have written, accompanied by a prophetic declaration in reference to their ultimate destiny, as medical and miscellaneous writers.

With respect, gentlemen, I am yours,

L. S., M. D.

New Haven, Conn., April, 1857.

CARBONATED BISCUIT.

Editor Medical World:—Dear Sir,—Permit me to call your attention to an article entitled Carbonized Biscuits. The proprietor of this article having felt for a long time, that some more convenient and less repulsive form was needed for the administration of carbon, was induced to adopt some method by which this important remedial agent might become more generally employed in cases where its use was indicated. That vegetable carbon possesses extraordinary powers as an absorbent, and oxidizer of gases, whether aqueous or aeriform, no one acquainted with its properties will question. I think we may safely consider it the only pure absorbent we possess; since it is neither assimilated, nor undergoes any change in the process of digestion, but merely passes through the alimentary tract, removing morbid accumulations, &c. Hence its value in all gastro-intestinal disorders, and diseases generally, which are dependent upon disordered digestion, such as diseases of the skin, dependent upon constitutional causes.

In calling the attention of the medical profession to the article in question, the proprietor would not be understood to claim any new or wonderful discovery, but simply giving to them a more convenient form for the administration of an important remedy.

It is well known to all who have ever used carbon, either alone or combined with any other substance, such as Rhei and some others, that it is generally repulsive to patients.

These biscuits contain about 15 grs. each of carbon, nicely prepared from the Populus Tremuloides.

Formula.

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Oatmeal (coarse)		
Flour	ā ā	Mess
Carbon Pulv.		ʒiiij
Butter		℥j

M

Ft. 16 Biscuits

In this combination we have the carbon in a very fresh and pure state, as well as an article of diet, sufficient of itself for all the purposes of nutrition. The absorbent and deoxidizing properties of carbon render it peculiarly applicable in all cases of gastro-enteric disorders. In dyspepsia in all its forms, in the nausea and vomiting, and confined state of the bowels which usually attends pregnancy, it will be found useful. Its power of absorption for gases, as shown by Dr. Stenhouse and others, is very great. It has been truly considered the only pure absorbent we possess, for the "mineral absorbents, such as lime, magnesia, bismuth, &c. are liable to undergo chemical changes in the stomach, forming new compounds, while the vegetable absorbents, such as flour, gum, starch, &c. may undergo changes in the stomach during the process of digestion." Now if an article of such value as that under consideration has been put into a form for easy and convenient administration, has not an important desideratum been obtained?

By calling the attention of the profession to the carbonized biscuits through your valuable

journal, you will confer a favor on your humble servant.

Sincerely yours,
CHARLES WARREN.

Exeter, N. H., April 22, 1857.

(For The Medical World.)

PROFESSIONAL POSITION.

MR. EDITOR: — The medical profession and practice are beset with manifold difficulties. The doctor is a supernumerary in time of health, and no man careth for his soul. Sickness is a liability for which no one estimates, and its contingent expenses are unwillingly discharged. The bearer of ill news may chance to incur some of the dislike which the intelligence inspires. In the same manner a man pays his physician's bill with the bad grace that he discharges an execution, or the cost of a mishap; the poor doctor is the suffering party. Who refrains from calling him up at night, "regardless of expense" which he does not mean to pay? All men are mortal, and some patients must consequently die, but who admits the fact in exculpation of the doctor? What long country rides pertain to the professional, toilsome labors, unrequited by gratitude or money! While the physician is combating disease and retarding the evil day, who gives him any credit if the incurable malady at last destroys the patient? Who but the physician has no holiday or hours of repose, in which he is not liable to be called on for labor; no abatement of care, no cessation of responsibility? He gets but a very sparing share of sympathy. Rev. Dr. Blank, who draws a snug salary with great punctuality every quarter, is an admired man. His larder never lacks a turkey at Thanksgiving, or a goose at Christmas. His living parishioners never let his flour barrel get too shallow, or his coal-bin empty. Delicate worsted stockings, and fine cravats, prepared by gentle hands, are upon his person. A donation party, now and then, fills his house with good things, and his heart with happiness. Then shall I make my son a minister? He knows doctors too well to embrace medicine. I think not. The clergy have their peculiar responsibilities, and unless my adolescent has a proclivity that way, I shall not suggest it. Had I not better present him with a land warrant, and send him West? I believe so, for the cultivators are the only independent men.

S.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Russia has decreed that all foreign vessels visiting the Russian ports of the Baltic for the future must be furnished with a clean bill of health from her port of departure, from the day the Sound dues are abolished. Hitherto the certificate of having paid toll was sufficient as a health warrant.

A Homœopathic Dispensary was established in Bond street, New York, in 1855, by Dr. Füllgraff. The second annual report, which has just been issued, gives a detailed statement of its operations for 1856. During that time, 1,024 patients were treated, and 4,023 prescriptions administered to the sick poor, free of charge. Of these 1,024 cases, 676 are set down as cured, 88 as relieved, 64 as having called but once, 72 as result unknown, 118 as remaining under treatment, and 4 as having died. The expenses of the Dispensary for the year were $597.

A new Homœopathic Journal of Medicine, published monthly, has appeared in Vienna, under the title of the Journal of the Austrian Homœopathic Society, which is very ably conducted, by Dr. J. O. Muller, of the State Austrian Quarterly Journal of Homœopathy. One of the leading objects of this serial, is to publish the results of physiological provings of medicines.

A prominent physician of New York was robbed in the streets, thus:—A woman suddenly stepped up to him and before he was hardly aware of her presence, she snatched his gold spectacles from his nose. The astonished Doctor was too much surprised to give any alarm, and the woman escaped. The physician returned to his hotel with no very favorable opinion of veiled women.

The Naval Medical Examining Board recently in session in New Orleans, have reported the following candidates for Assistant Surgeons in the Navy, as having passed a satisfactory examination: Algernon S. Garnett, Virginia; Frederick Van Bibber, Virginia; Jno. W. Sandford, jr., North Carolina; H. B. Trist, District of Columbia; Thomas J. Charlten, Georgia; Charles Lowndes, Jr., Maryland; Charles E. Lining, South Carolina.

An advertisement appeared in one of the Boston daily papers of April 8th, which runs thus:—"Wanted—A gentleman or lady, with a natural tendency for the practice of medicine."

Professor Clark, of Amherst College, while performing the experiment of making electrical light, was very nearly blinded by its intenseness, since which he has been obliged to confine himself to a dark room. So painfully intense is the impression left upon the retina, that though the room is so dark that his friends and attendants cannot see each other in it, to him it seems filled with the most dazzling light. Permanent and serious results are feared from the affection.

The establishment of Sutton & Rayor, 609 Broadway, New York, must be an object of interest to dentists. Every article in the line of their vocation is there on sale, including very beautiful anatomical preparations of the jaws and teeth, together with dissections of the fifth pair of nerves.

Dr. Lewis L. Miller of Providence, R. I., has recently recovered the sum of $2500 of Orville S. Balcomb of Attleboro', for damages suffered by the plaintiff from a collision with the defendant's carriage while returning from a professional visit to Attleboro', in September, 1855. The amount claimed by Dr. Miller was $10,000. The case was tried in the Supreme Court of Rhode Island.

A child in Pawtucket, Mass., two years old, having taken from the hand of its mother half a teaspoonful of an opium mixture, was so near death that the surface of its body became livid. It would not swallow, and breathed only at intervals. Dr. Clapp sent for a magneto-electrical machine; but another hour elapsed, the pulse was gone, and the child considered dead; yet, by artificial respiration, and the application of electricity from 2 to 10 o'clock, the infant was restored to life.

The third annual convention of American dentists will be held in Boston, on Tuesday, the first day of August next.

At a recent inquest in Boston, on the body of a man who had committed suicide, the jury used this strong language, which should have an influence in the halls of legislation: "The jury would improve this opportunity, in consequence of the frequent and multiplying instances of poisoning, of protesting against the unrestricted and indiscriminate license with which the apothecaries of the city of Boston dispense poisons of the deadliest character, in any desired quantity, and for whatever purpose assigned; and we would recommend that the proper authorities enact and enforce some ordinance adequate to arrest this abuse of commercial privilege."

Dr. John D. Martin has been appointed physician to the city prison, Knoxville, Tennessee.

Dr. Dorion, of St. Eustache, Canada, has been convicted of abstracting property from the trunk of a brother, immediately after his death, and thus defrauding the widow. The trial excited a good deal of interest, as the prisoner was respectably connected, and is said to be worth £50,000.

The measles and whooping cough are prevailing quite fatally among the children in Piedmont, Virginia.

On the first Monday of May, a course of lectures will commence in the Atlanta Medical College, Georgia.

The Medical Society of Georgia convened in the city of Augusta, on the second Wednesday of April.

It is said that a statute exists in one of our medical institutions, declaring a professor no longer qualified to teach, on arriving at the patriarchal age of sixty-five.

The third anniversary of the Medical Society of Monte Video was celebrated on the 10th of November last, with distinguished eclat, in the presence of the President of the Republic, ministers of state, and other notabilities. Dr. Don Henrique Minoz, president of the Society, opened the session with an appropriate address that was received with manifest satisfaction by a distinguished audience, which occupies several pages in a recent number of the Society's annals.

The Atlanta Medical and Surgical Journal, published monthly, in Georgia, is a spirited, racy, and well-conducted periodical, which is eminently worthy of an extended, profitable circulation.

A book has appeared in England, entitled *Travels and Recollections of Travels, with a chat upon various subjects*, by Dr. John Shaw.

The Publisher's Circular announces a new work in press, which is to be called a treatise on the Science and Art of Physio-Medical Surgery, designed as a text-book for students of Nature's system of medicine. Whether it is something old with a new name, can be determined hereafter.

Yellow fever seems to give the inhabitants of Rio Janeiro no respite. At the last advices it was fatally prevalent, and strangers were the greatest sufferers. At Pernambuco, the disease was apparently subsiding.

In a collection of wax figures, now on exhibition in Boston, there is a very striking likeness of Prof. Webster, who was executed for the murder of Dr. George Parkman, which no person fails to recognize who was familiar with his face.

A respectable physician of Brooklyn, N.Y., was detected in an attempt to pass a counterfeit $100 bill at a Broadway store, in payment for an expensive dressing-gown. It was proved he had several bank bills for $100 on different institutions copied by the photographic process. The artists aver they copied the bills simply out of curiosity. The physician confesses the same, and that in a moment of fatal temptation he tried to put it into circulation.

Dr. Blaney is the physician of the Marine Hospital, at Chicago. The question is naturally asked — Is it the professor of chemistry at the Medical School in that city?

A story is circulating in this wise, viz:— that in 1853, the city authorities of New Orleans appointed six physicians as a commission to inquire into the ill health of the city and report some plan for its relief. The city promised to pay for the services rendered. The commission performed an incredible amount of labor, most of which was of a very unpleasant character, and made an able report. The city now refuses to pay for these services, and the doctors have had to bring suit against the authorities.

An effort is being made in Canadian Legislature to prevent apothecaries and druggists from selling poisons, without a certificate of permission to do so from a physician or a magistrate. They are far in advance of us, in the right direction.

Without a license from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, no one is allowed by law to practise medicine or surgery in a part of Lower Canada. Notwithstanding all this, a Dr. Moses M. Mitivier has petitioned the Provincial Parliament to make an exception in his favor, by a special act. It would not answer to have partial, but always impartial legislation.

Spirit-rapping is largely on the increase. In consequence of the damage done to table legs by ethereal visitants, at nightly circles, the cabinet-making business is reviving.

These successful manufacturers of artificial limbs, Palmer & Co., are about opening a branch of their celebrated establishment in Boston. It should have been here before, as a compliment to those who wear so many wooden legs of their handiwork.

Dr. Bates, Ex-Treasurer of California, has been tried and convicted as a defaulter to the amount of $124,000 by the State Senate in its capacity of High Court of Impeachment. He was declared to be henceforth disqualified from holding any office of honor or profit in California.

The Southern Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences states that a boy in the vicinity, eight years of age, has his lower extremities turned completely round. There are no knee pans; the joint bends backwards, so that when he kneels, the lower legs are in front of the body. The heels are in front and the toes behind!

A lady named Ann Tyler died suddenly on Thursday night last, in Richmond, Va., from the bite of a spider. She was bitten on the cheek the night before, and died the following evening from the effects.

A celebrated Paris physician and surgeon lately performed an operation upon a blind man, as an act of charity, and fully restored him to sight. In a few days the blind man sued the doctor for destroying his profession as a blind man, and taking tools, laying damages at 20,000 francs. The suit is now in court.

In the new city of Chelsea, near Boston, they are having some trouble between the new Marine and Naval Hospitals. It happens in this way: Mr. Alexander, engineer of the new work, was allowed ten acres of the Naval Hospital estate as a site for the edifice of which he has charge. Having "staked out a claim," he found it did not suit him, and so he changed his plan, making his lot smaller in one direction, and extending its western boundary further into the hill from which he took a quantity of gravel.

Dr. Gilchrist, resident physician, thought this an encroachment upon his bailiwick, and applied to Mayor Fay, of Chelsea, for a police force to aid him in checking further aggressions; and, being refused, the Doctor had recourse to the barracks at Charlestown, and yesterday a corporal's guard of marines were on the ground, defending the doctor's territorial right. The dispute will be laid before the Navy Department for settlement.

A daughter of a late physician in Ohio, worth seventy thousand dollars in her own right, eloped with a young man recently, and thus disenthralled herself from the vigilance of two old aunts, which makes extraordinary commotion in Xenia.

The April number of the American Journal of Insanity abounds with valuable articles.

Physicians who went from England and the United States to Australia, with an expectation of succeeding well where gold was in abundance, were sadly disappointed, and those who had the means have returned back in disgust.

Owing to the failure of the last Legislature of Indiana to make the necessary appropriations, the asylums for the deaf and dumb and the blind of Indianapolis have been closed, and the children returned to their respective counties.

There are three hospitals in Mobile. One belongs to the U. S., one to the city, and the third to an individual, Dr. Lopez.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, MAY 6, 1857.

TABLE-TURNING. — It is by no means our intention to inflict upon the reader any more in regard to the latest popular mania of New England, than is barely necessary to furnish some future local historian with authentic materials for illustrating the tomfooleries of apparently sober-minded, discreet men and women, who, in the year of grace one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, are mad as March hares.

There are thousands distinguished for intelligence, who patiently concentrate all their mental energy upon the crinkum crankums of vitalized tables. Moses and the Prophets, Henry Clay, Dr. Franklin, Daniel Webster, and a host of the most gifted minds the world has known, take peculiar pleasure in descending from their celestial spheres to inform certain impressible people of the frivolities of ethereal space. Not, however, in the plain old Saxon method, by word of mouth. No, those great spirit-essences actually manifest their presence through table legs! Yes, very momentous intelligence is announced in that lofty manner. They use them instead of telegraphic wires.

Whether it is because they are more convenient than gutta percha cords, or to show their contempt for corporations, or in consequence of having imbibed a prejudice on account of small dividends on their original investments, cannot be known, of course, unless the fantastic operators of the invisible regions choose to communicate it. Suffice it that the penchant of all those geniuses of renown, through ages past, is more for table legs than any other kind of furniture or apparatus. What posterity may say of these manœuvrings is problematical. Nobody can object to hearing what rational persons say of the monomaniacs who are giving in their adhesion to table-turning nonsense, to the neglect of their business, and often their families.

Weak heads are uncommonly desirous to expose their mental condition. Some who have passed quite currently for sensible people, have successfully demonstrated the mistake. A proneness to these extravagances is inborn in this region, beyond a question. After periods of repose, the nervous excitement breaks out again, and all the elements of society become strangely chaotic. We are living in the last paroxysmal cycle. Others will follow hereafter in exact conformity to a law impressed upon the nature of the Puritan stock.

Praise-God Barebones are now very plenty. This is the day of canting hypocrisy, which shows itself in curious but not unrecognized forms, associated with intense earnestness to fathom the mysteries of the spirit-world. Taking advantage of the idiosyncrasies of a large proportion of the inhabitants, cunning mis-called mediums, of both sexes, avail themselves of a favorable opportunity to profit by the furor that is raging. If their customers want frequent dispatches from the skies, they can have them at a dollar a sitting. Simple raps are satisfactory to the small fry, at twenty-five cents a sitting; but when the table plays its pranks, like a circus horse dancing a waltz, there is no resisting the evidence of one's own eyes. They are the regularly initiated believers in they don't know what, beyond the admission that it is something they don't understand! Now that is the only thing true about it — the uniform confession that they don't understand. No wonder, — no one does!

By researches into the diaries of the first settlers of Massachusetts, frequent narratives are introduced of the conflicts which some of the fathers, but far oftener their fair daughters, had with the devil. Their innate strength of resistance, aided by unwavering confidence in the superior power of the clergy, gave them a victory, although it was a tug of war who should win or lose.

Seventy years ago, when recollections of the Salem witcheries had generally passed away, the little rural settlement of Georgetown, in Essex County, became the theatre of extraordinary exhibitions. Dr. Jeremiah Spofford, a gentleman of character, collected an authentic account of the anomalous transactions, which were published some years since in the Haverhill Gazette, at the suggestion of the Rev. Dr. Isaac Braman, of Beverly. A file of that paper is not within reach, to our regret, in which a detailed account of remarkable, and, in short, unaccountable feats, through the instrumentality of a young girl, were presented on a broad scale. Whatever she touched, even with her clothes, moved off from her! Tables, chairs, work-benches, &c., when in contact with her dress, were set in motion. "It was certified to that the meal chest moved steadily on, when loaded with three heavy men, even when they placed their backs to the side of the house, and their feet were braced against the chest." This extract simply proves there is nothing new under the sun; and the gyrations and topsy-turvy displays of Boston tables, under the dexterous control of the first statesmen known to America, if the mediums are to be believed, are not a whit superior, as performances, to the gymnastic frolics of meal-chests and oven-wood, at Georgetown, soon after the Revolution, when the whole affair was supposed to be entirely monopolized by his majesty of the dark abodes of Hades.

Diseases have regular phases. One stage, in some of the fevers, is attended by delirium, and the patient

picks at imaginary motes floating before his glaring optics. The present is unquestionably the period of hallucination, which, as the converts are representatives of the Puritan blood, will by-and-by pass off, and the most infatuated inquirers into the beauties of table-turning phenomena will again come to their senses.

Our philosophers, men of profound attainments, have not succeeded in explaining how the impostors perform their tricks. They are certainly adroit, and often out-general the legerdemain of practising artists in thaumaturgics. We are willing to receive expositions, and candidly-written comments on this table-turning epidemic, notwithstanding the sentiment advanced in the foregoing observations, that the aiders and abettors, the dupes and those who dupe them, are grossly imposing upon each other.

Great Remedies.—In 1816 a volume was republished in Philadelphia, from a London edition of rare popularity, called *Medical Histories and Reflections, by John Ferriar, M. D., senior physician to the Manchester Infirmary and Lunatic Asylum, &c.*, which abounds with certainties respecting the specific action of medicines, beyond the usual custom of authors, who in these latter days of medical wisdom, are extremely cautious on that point. Forty years ago practitioners gave their opinions with more freedom, were under less restraint in advancing hypotheses, and an explanation for it is found in the fact, that the practice of medicine was then actually in a transition state in Europe. In forty years a perfect revolution has taken place in every thing appertaining to the science, which the extraordinary discoveries in chemistry contributed to bring about.

With the impulse analytical chemistry gave to the medical mind, new theories were developed in regard to the specific influence of mineral and vegetable agents on the circulation, nervous system and tissues, till, in short, the books of to-day are freighted with facts and deductions which would have quite astonished the learned physicians of forty years ago.

But to the subject of great remedies of a past generation—to which the distinguished Dr. Ferriar belonged—under the prelection on dropsy, *digitalis* was nearly sovereign ; but when it failed, then *cream of tartar* came in with its specific powers, which were truly surprising. The first was rarely given in doses exceeding a grain a day, while of the latter,—half an ounce, dissolved in ten ounces of water, was prescribed, at the rate, ordinarily, of an ounce, to one and a half ounces daily.

"Peter Nield, aged forty-five, admitted Nov. 11, 1789, was anasarcous. He took the cream of tartar and soon began to void large quantities of urine, and to perceive a decrease of the swellings. As the medicine operated much by stool, however, he became very feeble, and I soon found it necessary to support him liberally, at the same time, with tonics. He was discharged well."

"Margaret Dewrden, aged nine, was admitted Aug. 8, 1791. The abdomen was greatly distended, and a stray fluctuation was felt on percussion. Her urine was very scanty, her thirst great, with a white tongue, hurried pulse and a teasing cough. She began immediately to take a grain of digitalis every day, in an ounce of infusum gentianæ compositum. The urine increased in a day or two, and continued, for six weeks, to flow largely; her swelling decreased and she had from two to three stools daily. She was discharged, cured, in the following December."

These two cases answer the purpose of illustrating the proposition, that the physicians relied more implicitly then on the specific action of drugs, than in our day. An amazing number of cases might be cited to show how very kindly, positively and effectually a few articles of the materia medica operated formerly, which now command no confidence whatever. Cream of tartar has become an essential agent in pastry cooking, while as a medicine, to prescribe it, under its old homely English name, at least, would be thought quite vulgar. Digitalis retains a respectable place on the shelves of the apothecary, and it is hardly possible it will ever become a favorite in culinary compounds.

If cream of tartar once wrought wonders in dropsies,—and the evidence that it did, is beyond a question,—why might it not be serviceable in this brighter epoch of much abused, misrepresented medical science ? We are no believer in specifics ; but it would be ridiculous to abandon any article that has proved serviceable in the mitigation or expulsion of disease, simply because it has been superseded on account of its simplicity. Medicines have been multiplied to such an extent that it is a great exercise of memory to keep them distinctly arranged in the mind ; but with this multiplication of machinery, are modern physicians any more successful than they were in Dr. Ferriar's happy and golden period of practice, when cream of tartar was a great remedy for dropsy ? In the quaint language of a Scotch Judge, "We trow not." The old practitioners of forty years ago adhered to a few medicines, simple in their chemical composition ; while we have too many, complicated in character.

Scientific Expeditions.—If a few medical gentlemen who are fond of travel, excitement, and hair-breadth escapes, would project an expedition to New Mexico in one direction, and the Hudson Bay possessions in the other, no better opportunity could be offered for giving themselves celebrity. The botany, mineralogy, physical geography, resources, and capacities of the vast regions they would pass over, could not fail of being in the highest degree instructive, curious, and of public utility.

With such a country as our own, accessible in every direction, abounding in archœological memorials, and rarities in natural history, it is passing strange that professional gentlemen, even those of moderate means,

who, above all others, are admirably qualified for extensive explorations, can content themselves with nibbles of practice, not worth waiting for, when they have it perfectly within their individual province to make a sensation in the world, perhaps to their immediate profit, and always to their honor.

A dozen narratives of terrible sufferings, or refined comforts, abounding in new and extraordinary facts illustrative of savage, demi-civilized, and any other kind of life to be met with on the tour, would be worth more, at ten cents on a copy from the publishers, than five years of hope deferred, till the heart is sick, in trying to practise a profession excessively over done, in which a woodsawyer of ordinary ingenuity at deception, may compete with an accomplished physician, if he chooses to set up as a quack.

All the materials of this fair globe are not exhausted. There is enough to be heard and seen, never yet seen or heard, and in the far interior of this continent too. Why not strike out boldly and make foot-prints that may be recognized in after times?

Those who write the books which are read the most, rarely do it with a golden pen, in an elegantly furnished drawing-room. Their desk is one knee, their place of study a tent.

Natural history and medical botany, independently of all other considerations, as regards materials for publication, that would be both new and useful, offer a sufficient inducement for undertaking not only one or two, but half a dozen caravan enterprises west and north-west.

Arguments without number might be systematically arranged to make it plain enough to be understood, that the avenues to honorable distinction are not all closed to medical aspirants, in this busy, jostling epoch of Young America. Be influenced then by the suggestions of this article, and reap the reward that would positively follow.

California State Medical Journal.—From an editorial exposition of the actual pecuniary condition of that able and spirited medical quarterly, which is an honor to the new State from whence it emanates, a shade of doubt surrounds its future prospects. It was commenced with only one hundred and fifty subscribers; and to vitalize it for another year, the list must be raised to three hundred, at five dollars apiece, the annual subscription price. A decisive expression of interest in the success of the enterprise, is noticeable in the fact, that fourteen physicians put down their names for fifty-eight copies. W. P. Tileston, M. D., H. Gibbins, M. D., J, S. Titus, M. D., and J. F. Montgomery, M. D., actually subscribed for ten copies, each. It is worth while to have men of such generosity in the neighborhood of gold diggings.

The California State Medical Journal is always a welcome messenger to the East, and we doubt not, the professional gentlemen on the opposite site of the Rocky Mountains, hail its appearance with equal pleasure. They must not permit a bright light of medical science to die in the socket for the want of oil. One urgent, earnest appeal may carry the ship over the bar into a safe harbor.

MARRIAGES.

At Jewett City, Conn., Rev. H. T. Cheever to Miss Jane, daughter of the late L. Tyler. M. D.

DEATHS.

At Paris, Me., Mrs. Mary Prentiss, daughter of the late Dr. John Hart, of South Reading, Mass.

N. C. W. Kirkendal, of Trenton, N. J., lost at Sea in the Ship Cathedral, of Boston, Feb. 18, on a voyage from Philadelphia to California.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 25.

Barny Doherty 22 yrs., Ann Conlan 42 do., Lawrence Crotty 24 do., Patrick O'Neal 20 do., James McCann 13 mos., William Cleland 32 yrs., Mary Durfee, John Kelly 56 yrs., Jas. Monahan 3 do., James H. O'Hearn 3 do., Ann Judge 20 do., Mary Fife 6 do., Peter Cavanagh 6 do., Thomas J. Norton 19 do., Harriet N. Jordon 39 do., Robert B. Hogan 27 do., Margaret Tracy 31 do., Joanna Sullivan 4 do., Margaret S. Ward 21 do., Bartholomew O'Leary 20 do., Wm. McGowan 5 mos., Michael Lyons 18 do., John Flaherty 4 do., Patrick Biggins 3 do., John Holland 7 days, Thomas D. Randall 2 do., Mary Mullen 1 day, Willie H. Hosmer 2 mos., Michael McDonald 32 yrs., Lawrence Alburg 30 do., David Marsh 66 do., Charles E. Howes 19 do., Levi Mitchell 30 do., Catherine Regan 2 do., Daniel Kelly 3 do., Robert Rabbitt 13 do., Mary L. Tenney 2 do., Frances E. Sewall 23 do., John Forrest 25 do., Henry Dempsey 16 do., George W. Craige 8 do., Wm. H. Latimer 3 do., Thankful Stillman 32 do., Henry (alias) Robert Taylor 22 do., Charles A. De Witt 33 do., Joanna Mc Namara 7 do., Thomas Barry 20 do., Mary A. Callahan 17 do., John Buckley 21 do., Anna Bailey 23 do., Antonio Rivas 20 do., Robert Beerenstyn 1 mo., Jos. Lee 11 mos., Ellen Ford 6 do., Wm. D. Wood 9 do., Catherine Murphy 2 days, Wm. J. Folteen 3 do., Mary J. Barry 17 do., David Coleman 1 do., Margaret Cummings 1 do., James Brady 13 yrs., Julia Wharf 75 do., Charlotte Steede 68 do., Ellen P. Bryant 18 do., Mary Hoppin 63 do., Charles H. Gould 11 do., John Farrell 2 do., Margaret Singleton 30 do., Patrick Calpin 52 do., Mary A. Tooman 10 do., Thos. W. Smith 5 do., Michael Walsh 1 day, Cecilia McKeon 15 mos., Joanna Dorr 12 do.

Diseases.—Apoplexy 2, inflammation of bowels 3, consumption 18, convulsions 2, croup 3, dropsy in head 2, infantile diseases 8, scarlet fever 7, disease of heart 5, inflammation of lungs 6, disease of spine 3, scrofula 2, other diseases 1 each, 13.—Males 47, females 27. Total 74. 47 were born in the United States, 15 in Ireland, 3 in England, 5 in British Provinces, and 5 in other foreign places.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE

MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME II. MAY 13, 1857. NUMBER 7.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL ANTIQUITY.

Before us is an octavo volume of 266 pages, published in London, 1701, with this title-page, viz.: — *An Account of the Breeding of Worms in Human Bodies; their Nature, and several Sorts; Their Effects, Symptoms, and Prognostics. With the true Means to avoid them, and Medicines to cure them. By Nicholas Andry, M.D., of the Faculty of Paris. With Letters to the Author on this Subject, from M. Nicholas Hartsoeker at Amsterdam, and M. George Baglivi at Rome. Approved by Dr. Fagon, Chief Physician to the King of France, and by the whole Faculty of the Physicians of Paris. Done from the French Original, with Figures.*

London: Printed for H. Rhodes at the Star the corner of Bride-Lane, Fleetstreet; and A. Bell at the Cross-Keys and Bible in Cornhil, near Stock-market, 1701.

The dedication and the compliments which were paid to the great medical autocrat, whose favor the English translator was ambitious to win, contrast strangely with present literary taste in such matters.

To *Messire Guy Crescent Fagon*, Counsellor of State, and Chief Physician to the King.

Sir,

This Work is altogether owing to you. If the Sentiments of Gratitude which I always entertain towards you, did not make me sensible of it, the occasion of my writing it, were sufficient to convince me. It is the cure of a Patient who owes his Life to the care I always took to imitate you. For a long time I looked upon it as a Problem, whether it were convenient to purge in the beginning of a Distemper. But I was soon determined when I understood it to be your practice. That confirmed me in the doctrine of Hippocrates, who recommends Purgatives when the Humors, being in a ferment, threaten to attack the principal parts of the body. I had in cure a patient sick of a pleurisy, and laboring under a delirium. The distemper was increasing, I examined all the symptoms of it; and after having observed the signs of worms, and a violent fermentation of humors, I thought fit to exhibit a medicine against worms, which at the same time was purgative. I did so, sir, being persuaded that there was no danger of being mistaken in following your maxims; which are the result of such a long experience and profound meditation. This purgative medicine being taken before the concoction of the humors, was the ready way, according to the opinion of some prejudiced persons, to destroy my patient; but it was so far from depriving him of life, that it freed him from a flat worm above four ells long. It was that worm, sir, of whichI presented you the cut some months ago. I remember you did me the honor then to tell me, that at different times you had seen three such worms; which is sufficient to stop the mouths of some opinionative persons, who, when they heard of this, ridiculed it as a fable. The circumstance of this cure is the occasion of the treatise I here present you. It shall never be published without your consent, sir, which I hope you will not refuse me, when you consider that I aim at nothing in it but the public advantage; for I know that is the principal motive to prevail with you to approve any work, as it is one of the chief ends of all your actions. In effect, sir, when I consider all that you have done, I find nothing but what attests your zeal for the public welfare. When you labor with so much application to advance the art of physic, it is because nothing pleases you more than to contribute to the greatest felicity of your countrymen, by bringing an art to perfection that has no other end but their preservation. When you send impostors a packing, fellows that were never approved, and who in

a profession that is altogether charitable of itself, think of nothing but satisfying their own avarice, it is because you are grieved that the people, who are of themselves uncapable of discerning the truth, should become the laughing-stock, or rather the victim of falsehood. When you make use of the authority of your Sovereign to hinder certain Faculties of the Kingdom to give Degrees without distinction to all such as require it, it is because you are not willing that snares should be thus laid for the lives of men, by prodigally conferring the title of a science upon ignorant fellows that know nothing of it. When we see you so careful to preserve the most valuable health in the world, that to the happiness of France is committed to your care, it is because you know that in acquitting yourself of such an indispensable duty, you do thereby insure the repose and safety of the State.

In fine, when you protect our society with so much goodness, your end in it is, that we may daily render our schools more and more flourishing. So you explained yourself, sir; and it is the testimony which the Faculty itself gives you in their solemn thanks, that I translated by their order with so much pleasure into our native language. We may justly say that the Faculty answers your intent with success: You see that they apply themselves only to breed wise, learned, and laborious physicians, who mind the ease of their patients more than their own interest. Thus, sir, their chief aim is to breed physicians worthy to follow your steps. They propose to their scholars no other model but that disinterestedness, generosity, uprightness, and those principles of probity and religion that are to be observed in all your conduct. They propose to them that lofty genius, that greatness of soul, that depth of education, so honorable in the eyes of a prince, who hath worthily rewarded them in you to the satisfaction of his people. They lay before them those learned theses, wherein the fineness of your expression abates nothing of the solidity of your thought; and wherein both together prescribe the wholesome rules of an art, which requires so much circumspection and prudence. The last of these theses, among others, appeared to me to be so complete, that after having quoted it in several parts of my book, I could not forbear translating the whole; not, sir, that I had any hope of expressing its beauties, but from a desire I had to give at least a slight idea of it to those who stand in need of the help of translations. In a word, the Faculty hath no other will but yours: they love you as their protector, and revere you as their oracle. What I say of the Faculty in general, may be said in particular of all its members; or if any one of our number were so unhappy as to prove an exception, the Faculty would disown him, and not look upon him as one of its members. I am in no danger of that, sir, for in our common design to frame and regulate ourselves according to your pattern, if I am not so able as others to arrive to it, yet there is none of them that hath more veneration and deference for your sentiments and illustrious person, than I have. I am, with profound respect, sir,

Your most humble, most obedient,
and most obliged servant,
Paris, 1 Nov. 1699. ANDRY.

The Approbation of Messire Guy Crescent Fagon, Counsellor of State in Ordinary, and Chief Physician to the King.

The subject of this book required all the eloquence, which hath many times procured its author, on famous occasions, the just applause of his hearers. One of the vilest animals in the world is examined here with such noble erudition, as makes us forthwith lose the idea of its baseness; and all the disgust which the matter might cause in us, must give way to the agreeable diversity of matters of fact, and the elegance with which they are related. It were to envy the public a very useful pleasure, to deny the printing of this work, which to me seems as important for the practice of physic as curious for natural history.

Given at Versails, Nov. 24, 1699.
FAGON.

The approbation of Monsieur Dodart, M. D. of the Faculty of Paris, and of the Royal Academy of Sciences.

I have read with abundance of satisfaction on the book intituled, *Of the Breeding of Worms in Human Bodies:* not only because the principal subject of the book is very well handled, but also because there are in several parts of it considerable proposals for the improvement of the history of nature and practical physic; so that I am of opinion that the publication of this book may be very useful to the public, and that the perusal of it will be pleasant in proportion to the knowledge that the readers have in natural philosophy and experimental physic.

Given at Paris, Jan. 1, 1700. DODART.

The approbation of M. Bourdelot, Counsellor in Ordinary to the King, Chief Physician to the Dutchess of Burgundy, and the Lord

Chancellor; Doctor Regent of the Faculty of Physic at Paris, deputed by the Lord Chancellor to examine this book.

I have read, by order of the Lord Chancellor, and with abundance of satisfaction, this manuscript, intituled, *Of the Breeding of Worms in Human Bodies.*

At Seve, Sept. 30, 1699. BOURDELOT.

The Report of Monsieur Berger, Censor and Antient Dean of the Faculty of Physic, at Paris.

I find Mr. Andry's book, concerning the *Breeding of Worms in Human Bodies*, so elegant and full of learning, that I am of opinion it will be as well received of the public, as it hath been satisfactory to me in the perusal.

Dec. 2, 1699. BERGER.

The Report of M. Saint-Yon, Physician in Ordinary to the King, Doctor Regent of the Faculty of Physic, at Paris, and Professor of Chymistry in the King's Garden.

Rich people eat and drink so unreasonably, and the poor live so miserably, that it is impossible but a very great quantity of worms of all sorts must breed both in one and the other. The treatise which Mr. Andry, my brother of the Faculty, hath written upon this subject, is so full of learning, so neatly writ, and is so full of curious enquiries and good receipts, that after having read it attentively, I wish it were published as soon as possible.

At Paris, Dec. 4, 1699. DE SAINT YON.

The Report of Monsieur Maillard, Doctor Regent of the Faculty of Paris.

The manner in which Mr. Andry does here explain the *Breeding of Worms in a Human Body;* the different causes and signs that he gives us with so much exactness; the prudence with which he prescribes us the medicines; his inquiries and curious observations upon that distemper, are sufficient to show that the book is worthy of the pen of the author, of the reading of the learned, and of the approbation of the Doctors of Physic.

At Paris, Dec. 3, 1699. MAILLARD.

The Report of Mr. Tournefort of the Royal Academy of Sciences, Doctor of Physic of the Faculty of Paris, and Professor of Botany in the King's Garden.

The treatise of the *Breeding of Worms in a Human Body*, &c. composed by Mr. Andry, Doctor of Physic of the Faculty of Paris, contains a very solid doctrine, founded upon what is most certain in nature concerning the generation of worms, supported by a great number of very exact observations upon the distempers they produce, and confirmed by the experience of several special remedies proper for the curing them.

Paris, Decemb. 6, 1699. TOURNEFORT.

The Report of Mr. Tauvry, of the Royal Academy of Sciences; Doctor of Physic of the Faculty of Paris.

I have read with pleasure the book of the *Breeding of Worms in Human Bodies*, composed by Mr. Andry, Doctor of the Faculty of Paris, wherein I have found a great deal of exactness and learning. The matters of fact therein related may be of great use to physicians; for besides that the author neatly discovers the causes and signs of the distempers that are accompanied with worms, he joins very judicious reflections upon the medicines we ought to make use of. The explications he gives us, and the observations of the moderns that he relates, render this work as curious as profitable.

At Paris, Nov. 18, 1699. D. TAUVRY.

The License from the Dean.

We Physician in Ordinary to the Duchess of Burgundy, Dean, Doctor Regent of the Faculty of Physic of Paris, having heard the report of Messieurs Berger, De Saint-Yon, Maillard, Tournefort, and Tauvry, also Doctors Regents of the said Faculty, deputed by them to examine a book intituled, *Of the Breeding of Worms in Human Bodies*, writ by Mr. Andry, Doctor likewise of the same Faculty, consent that it should be printed.

Given at Versails, Dec. 27, 1699.

BOUDIN, *Dean.*

There is scarcely a disease recognized which the sapient author did not make it quite clear to the profession of his day, had an origin in worms. For the sake of exemplifying the standard of medical mind, one hundred and fifty-seven years ago, in Europe, we purpose to make a few drafts upon this curious treatise. Passing over the body of the work, the letter of a person of some distinction, addressed to the author, will show how the cultivated public estimated the medical lights at that epoch; while the answer more perfectly illustrates the progress of inductive medical science, which was then just beginning to

dawn, although shrouded in a thick covering of authoritative pathological ignorance.

A Letter to the Author.

I know not, Sir, whether I should boast of the Victory; but since the taking of your Potion, she has had six days clear of her Fits: You know that it has expell'd a great quantity of Worms. I bled the Child at the time prescrib'd, and look'd upon some drops of the Serum of her Blood in a Glass, holding it between me and the Sun, pursuant to your Orders, and found some little and almost unperceivable Worms in it. All this, I must own, goes beyond my Capacity: I cannot conceive how the Worms should be an effect of Fear. I have turn'd off my Quack: He had reason to say, that at last I would find he had a fine *Arcanum;* for though he had none for curing my Daughter, I must say he had an admirable one for pumping Mony from me. Pray let us know what Method we must follow to prolong our Joy: We'll obey your Orders nicely.

A certain Lady, a Friend of ours, that had some Secrets given her, told me, that, if my Daughter relaps'd, I had nothing to do, but to take an After-birth, and dry it, and give her a dram of the Pouder, which would expel all the Worms. She communicated this Secret to me, as being a thing of singular and unknown Virtue. Be so kind as to let me have your thoughts upon it, for I depend entirely upon you. The Apothecary that furnishes the Med'cines, sent me word that your Mixture might be improved by the addition of the Water of *Carduus Benedictus*, and that he believ'd you would not be against it. Morever, within these three or four days, methinks my *Asthma* begins to recoil upon me: I'm advis'd to some drops of the Spirit of *Wine* in a little Water to be taken in a Morning for attenuating the Blood and Humors, and to avoid Salt and all salted things, because, they say, Salt thickens the Blood and hinders it from circulating.

Madam . . . . . is resolv'd to follow your Advice, and to suffer no body to touch her Breast. The story of Madam *Le* . . . . . has made her more afraid of the Quacks than ever. I am told, what I did not know before, that that Woman that took Madam . . . . . in hand, pretended to obliged her to pay a considerable Sum, alledging she had cur'd her; and that Madam *Le R* . . . . . to get clear of the Quack Doctresses Suit, was obliged to have your Attestation of the wretched Condition her Doctress had brought her to. I have heard that some time before, a Counsellor, that in all probability wanted Business, administred Med'cines to her, and that he was the first that caus'd her Breast to be open'd. If you know the names of the one and the other, you'l oblige me in acquainting me with 'em; I have some reasons for knowing them. I send you here enclos'd a *Recipe* that a Physician gave to a Friend of mine for the Worms, and was communicated to me as a *Nostrum*. There are News here, that the Son of Monsieur *M*. . . . . Advocate to the Parliament, is dead of Worms; and that you being call'd a few days before his Death, prescrib'd a Med'cine that expell'd a great many Worms, but was call'd too late to perfect the Cure. Mr. *de* . . . . . is very much concern'd at his Death, which has carried off a very honest Gentleman, that he had a great esteem for.

I am, Sir, &c.

A Pouder against the Worms in Epileptic Children.

Take of Rhubarb and Agarick, of each a Dram; prepar'd Esula, a Scruple; the Herb Corallin and burnt Hartshorn, of each half an Ounce; Myrrh, Zedoary, and Tansey-flowers, of each a Scruple; Salt of Wormwood and Salt of Tartar, of each half a Dram; reduce all to fine Pouder, to which add a little Sugar. Dose, from a Scruple to a Dram, according to the Child's Age.

The Author's Answer.

Sir, I am infinitely glad to hear that the Med'cine succeeded. You must repeat it the next day after you receive this Letter: then intermit three days, and repeat it again. It is very proper to continue the ordinary Regimen, and above all, to take care the Child be not frighted. People think to keep Children in awe by putting them in fear, by which means they do a mighty injury both to Body and Mind: for if frighting 'em at that rate do's not always throw 'em into sickness, it never fails to sink their Reason. You must give the young Lady a little more liberty, and order her Governess not to threaten her so hard, when she's guilty of any mistake in reading, but to treat her gently, and to check her without Passion; sometimes to laugh over her very faults, and above all, to interlace her little Lessons with some relentment when she's weary of 'em, and to bring her back to her Book by insensible Methods; and in a word, to make her exercises a Diversion to her. By this Conduct we give spirit and life to Children, and instruct 'em without rendring them Melan-

choly. If you'l take care, Sir, that our little Patient be thus manag'd, you need not doubt but our Remedies will perfect her Cure.

As for your surprizal, that an Illness coming by a Fright, should take rise from Worms: if you mean that you cannot conceive how that comes to pass, you're in the right of it, for it is not easy to find a reason for it: But if your surprizal is only occasion'd by your fancying it to be unexampled, you must correct it.

* Thomas Cornelius, a learned Citizen of Consentium in Calabria, says, he saw a little Girl, that, after a Fright, of which she thought to die upon the spot, fell insensibly into a decay, became pale, and subject to pains in the Breast, and afterwards to Epileptic fits, and at last, after a great deal of Torment died: he tells you, they open'd her Corps, and, after a narrow enquiry, could find no other cause of her Death, but the Worms, that had gnaw'd the vessels of the Heart. That Author remarks that Fear has the same effect upon other Animals. A Sterlin that was kept in a House, being still pursued and plagued by the Children, became subject to Convulsions, which made it fall from off a high place. Thomas-Cornelius says, he had the curiosity to open this Fowl, and found the bottom of its Heart overrun with worms. He adds, that this put him upon making the Experiment upon Chicks, and tryiug if fear would likewise produce Worms in them. Accordingly he scar'd and frighted several Chicks for some days, and afterwards opened 'em, and found in every one of 'em large Worms about the Heart.

This, Sir, will give you occasion to make several Reflections, and at the same to take heart, since these Observations furnish us with a shrewd presumption, that the Lady's illness is occasion'd by Worms, and consequently that we have reach'd the cause of her Distemper: from whence you have reason to expect a compleat Cure.

As for the Remedy recommended to you by the Lady of your acquaintance, it is not so great a Secret, for several Authors have it; only they join Aloe to it, and add this Proviso that it should be an After-birth of a first Child. I cannot say upon my own Experience what efficacy it has, for I never try'd it. But I knew that Luke Tozzi,† now Physician to the Pope, assures us he cur'd a young Man with that Med'cine, and brought forth a very long broad Worm. The Remedy is easily come at, and we may try it if we have occasion; but I hope we shall have none. However I will not be positive till eight days hence.

As for what the Apothecary tells you, I have nothing to say but this, that you would do well to avoid mixing the Water of Carduus Benedictus with that already prescrib'd. 'Tis true, the vertues of the two Waters are pretty much of a piece; but sometimes two things having the same Quality in a separate State, lose it when they're mix'd. The Oil of Vitriol and the Oil of Tartar, one of which is very acid, and the other sharp, being mix'd together lose their edg, and become an insipid Liquor. Thus do mixtures sometimes overturn all: and the ablest Physicians have always been careful to avoid 'em. *Boetius de Boot, Physician to Rodolph II. was so nice upon this point, that to eight Grains of Bezoar and one Ounce of Sorrel-water, which he used to give in malignant Fevers, he never durst join any other Water whatsoever: nay, after the exhibiting of that Medicine, he would not allow the Patient to drink any thing for the space of an Hour: for fear that another sort of Liquor, tho of the same vertue, should thwart or weaken the action of the first: for in fine, says he, sometimes there are secret contrarieties in things that scape our view, which are the reason that Remedies, which by themselves would produce the desired effect, fall shortof it, when mingled together.

You tell me, you are advis'd to Spirit of Wine for your Asthma, because, say they, it attenuats the Bloods and Humors. I do not know, Sir, who gave you so fine Counsel; but if he be one that pretends to Physic, you'l suffer me to tell you, that he meddles in a Science he do's not understand. The Spirit of Wine attenuats the Blood and Humors just so far, that if you inject two Ounces with a Syringe into the jugular Vein of a Dog, in a Minute's time you'l his Lungs stuff'd with clots of congeal'd Blood. The Spirit of Wine thickens the white of an Egg. If a few drops of it be held in the Mouth, it coagulates the Spittle, and makes it look like Glew. And this is its attenuating the Humors. Beware, Sir, of taking the Spirit of Wine, for your Asthma, which takes rise from a viscid matter in the Lungs. Indeed the use of the Spirit of Wine and Brandy is good for those who are much fatigued, because by thickning the Humours

* Thom. Cornel, Consentin. Progymn, de Nutricat. Prog. 6.

† Luca Tozzi Neapolit. in Hip. Aph. comm. lib. 2. aphor. 21.

* Boetim de Boot, de lapid. & gemm. lib. 2. cap. 193.

it' prevents the excessive dissipation of the Spirits, that the fatigue occasions.

You are further advis'd, you say, to avoid Salt, as being a thickner of the Blood. Another piece of ignorance! Salt is so far from thickning the Blood, that throwing Salt into Blood drawn out of a Vein, hinders its Coagulation: Upon which Account we use to throw Salt into the Mouths of Apoplectic Persons. The Blood itself is Salt, and 'tis only by virtue of its Salt that it keeps up its fluidity in the vessels of the Body: and the occasion of its curdling when it is drawn out of the Body, is the evaporation of its saline Spirits. In dissecting a living Animal, if we hold a Candle near to it, these Salts which evaporate in great Crouds, will sometimes make a sparkling in the flame of the Candle, just as if you had thrown Sea Salt upon it. This I have seen several times; and George Baglivius, Professor of Anatomy at Rome, says, he has observ'd it in dissecting a Greyhound. I remember to have seen the same effect, upon holding a Candle just over the porringers of Blood new drawn from a Patient, because then the steams of the Blood have a freer access to the flame of the Candle. As soon as this Salt exhales, the Blood curdles, and loses all its saltness; whereas while it is fluid, it tastes saltish upon the Tongue. Thus, Sir, you see Salt preserves the fluidity of the Blood at all rates: and therefore whoever dissuades you from Salt (which indeed is not good for you) upon the plea of its thickning the Blood, is a Man that do's not understand what he advances.

I am glad Madam ..... is at length resolv'd not to meddle with her Cancer, and that the exit of Madam *de* ..... has made her afraid to venture. The Story of the Counsellor, and the Woman that took in hand Madam ..... is just as you have it. As for the Certificate they requir'd of me, I did not rely upon my own Judgment,but call'd M. Berger, Dean of our Faculty, to consult with me, who was as much stunn'd as I, to see a Breast given in as cur'd, that was all over ulcerated and render'd absolutely incurable. We jointly drew up her case in Writing, and sign'd it.

With reference to the Son of M. le ..... Advocate to the Parliament, you are ill inform'd. For he dy'd of a Dropsy. I was call'd on the 13th of August, to a Consultation with M. Marteau and M. Daval, both famous Physicians; but neither they nor I had any such ridiculous suspicion of the Distemper's being occasion'd by Worms. The Case was too plain, to leave us in suspence upon that Point: the Story of the Patients voiding Worms, by vertue of Medicins given for the purpose, is fabulous. He voided no worms, and I order'd no such Remedy. The conduct of M. Marteau, and M. Daval, was so wise and cautious, that it had been temerity in me to have offer'd any Addition or Alteration. Such Persons as ascribe such Wonders to me, that I never did, do not at all oblige me. And I'll always take care to clear myself of what good they shall speak of me, when I find it not conformable to the Truth.

I have look'd upon the Recipe that was given you. I admire that People should make Secrets of things that are to be met with else where. You may give that Physician to know, that his whole Recipe stands entire, word for word, in No. 3, of the 5th Chapter of the second Book of Matthias Untzerus, his Treatise of the Epilepsy. I do not pretend to depretiat the Med'cine upon that Account, for it is of admirable use against Worms: only I cannot abide to see common things turn'd into Nostrums. I perceive your fears of the young Lady's Relapse, put you upon gathering all the Receipts you can hear of: but if she continue eight days more clear of the Paroxysm, as I hope she will, assure yourself there's no danger. It remains, that I congratulate your Happiness in being rid of all the Quacks: for these are a sort of Vermin more difficult to be expell'd, than those that Physick encounters with Remedies. I am,

Sir, Your most humble
and obedient Servant,

ANDRY.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF GEORGIA,

HELD IN AUGUSTA, APRIL 8TH AND 9TH, 1857.

Richard D. Arnold, of Savannah; Joseph A. Eve, of Augusta; Lewis D. Ford, of Augusta; M. H. Oliver, of Atlanta; R. Q. Dickinson, of Alabama; W. L. Jones, of Augusta; J. G. Howard, of Savannah; L. A. Dugas, of Augusta; Henry F. Campbell, of Augusta; R. C. Beack, of Augusta; Eben Hillyer, of Atlanta; J. M. Turner, of Augusta; A. Means, of Oxford; S. W. Burney, of Forsyth.

The proceedings of the last Annual Meeting held in Macon, April 9th, 1856, were read and approved.

On motion, the Rules were suspended, and the following gentlemen, on written application, were duly elected members of the Society.

Prof. Joseph P. Logan, of Atlanta; Prof. Jesse Boring, of LaGrange; Prof. John W. Jones, of Atlanta; Wm. S. Meiere, of Madison; John B. Hendrick, of Covington; G. L. McCleskey, of Madison; N. F. Powers, of Thompson; V. H. Taliaferro, of Atlanta; Olin S. Means, of Oxford; T. C. H. Wilson, of Atlanta; E. J. Roach, of Pulaski; W. H. Doughty, of Augusta; W. L. Felder, of Augusta; W. T. Grant, of Columbia; R. H. Eaton, of Lawrenceville; M. J. Jones, of Warrington; A. T. Jenkins, of Green Co.; J. W. Gardner, of Augusta; J. T. Dickinson of Albany; S. S. Cranford, of Augusta; T. B. Ford, of Augusta; DeSaussure Ford, of Augusta; H. R. Casey, of Columbia; J. C. Carroll, of Lawrence Co.; E. B. Hook, of Augusta; E. H. W. Hunter, of Louisville; D. W. Marks, of Augusta; D. W. Young, of Augusta; H. H. Steiner, of Augusta.

The election of officers being next in order, a ballot was ordered, and the following gentlemen were duly elected for the ensuing year:

Dr. S. W. Burney, of Forsyth, President; Dr. H. F. Campbell, of Augusta, 1st Vice President; Dr. T. C. H. Wilson, of Atlanta, 2d Vice President.

On motion of Dr. Arnold, of Savannah, the Corresponding and Recording Secretary, and Treasurer, were consolidated. A ballot was then ordered, and Dr. Eben Hillyer, of Atlanta, was declared unanimously elected.

The selection of Delegates to the American Medical Association being next in order, a committee of five, consisting of the following gentlemen,—Drs. Dickinson, Dugas, Arnold, Taliaferro and Means,—were appointed by the President, to select them, and report at their earliest convenience.

Society then adjourned until three o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Society called to order by the President. Reports from auxiliary societies being called for, Dr. E. Hillyer presented a report of the organization of officers and members of the auxiliary society in the City of Atlanta; which, upon motion, was received and adopted, and ordered to be put among the records of the Society.

The committee to appoint delegates to the American Medical Association reported the names of the following gentlemen:

Dr. W. S. Meiere, of Madison; Dr. J. G. Howard, of Savannah; Dr. Jesse Boring, of La Grange; Dr. Joseph P. Logan, of Atlanta; Dr. Wm. S. Jones, of Augusta; Dr. Geo. F. Cooper, of Americus; Dr. N. F. Powers, of Thompson; Dr. Eben Hillyer, of Atlanta; Dr. T. P. Powell, of Sparta; Dr. R. D. Arnold, of Savannah; Dr. H. R. Casey, of Apling; Dr. Henry Gaither, of Oxford; Dr. S. W. Burney, of Forsyth.

The committee also reported the following:

Resolved, That should any of the gentlemen appointed be unable to attend, that they be authorized to appoint their own alternate.

The report was received and unanimously adopted.

The reading of Essays being next in order, Dr. Kollock, of Savannah, read a very elaborate and interesting paper upon Vesico Vaginal Fistula.

Society then adjourned until 10 o'clock, Thursday morning.

THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 9TH.

Society met pursuant to adjournment.

Minutes read and approved.

Upon written applications, the following gentlemen were elected members: Drs. W. T. Hollingsworth, of Morgan; J. W. Dent, S. W. Lamar, C. Walton, Charles Palmedo, of Augusta, and Thos. S. Powell, of Sparta.

On motion of Dr. Means, it was

Resolved, That those gentlemen of the Society who were appointed to read Essays at the present meeting, and may have prepared them but who had been unavoidably prevented from attending, be requested to furnish their papers at their earliest convenience, to the Editor of the Southern Medical and Surgical Journal, for publication.

On motion, for the benefit of new members, the Secretary was required to read the Constitution and its amendments; also that the Editor of the Southern Medical and Surgical Journal be requested to publish the same in the columns of said Journal.

Dr. Jos. A. Eve, by appointment, read a paper upon the diseases of the Cervix Uteri, which was listened to with much interest by the Society.

Dr. L. A. Dugas contributed a full and interesting paper upon Fractures of the Scapula.

Dr. Dickinson, of Albany, offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be tendered Drs. Kollock, Eve and Dugas for the Essays read by them before the Society, and that they be requested to furnish copies for

publication in the Southern Medical and Surgical Journal.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Society called to order by the President. Dr. Hunter offered the following:

Resolved, That O. S. Proffett having been found to have been ineligible at the time of his election to membership in this Society, the Secretary is hereby instructed to erase his name from the list of members, which was unanimously adopted.

A Committee consisting of Drs. Means, Grant, Ford, Jones, and Campbell, were appointed to select subjects, and appoint Essayists for the next Annual Meeting.

The selection of the place for holding the next Annual Meeting being now in order, a ballot was ordered, and upon counting the votes, it was found that Madison, Morgan County, had received a majority. Dr. Thos. S. Powell, of Sparta, was elected Orator for the next Annual meeting, and W. S. Meiere, of Madison, his alternate, should he be unable to attend. The Committee on Essays made the following report of subjects and Essayists for the next meeting, which was received and adopted: Dr. J. G. Howard, of Savannah, on Uterine Diseases; Dr. E. J. Roach, of Pulaski, on the Propriety of Surgical Operations about the Joints; Dr. H. F. Campbell, of Augusta, on the Rectal Administration of Medicines; Dr. J. M. Green, on the Value of Escharotics in the Treatment of Cancer; Dr. R. D. Arnold, of Savannah, on the Pathology and Treatment of Yellow Fever; Dr. Ira E. Dupree, of Twiggs, on the Treatment of Prolapsus Uteri; Dr. Eben Hillyer, of Atlanta, on the Physiology of Menstruation; Dr. V. H. Taliaferro, of Atlanta, on Obstetrical Surgery; Dr. N. F. Powers of Thompson, on Diseases of the Skin; Dr. Meiere, of Madison, on the Use of Alcohol in Typhoid Fever; Dr. R. Campbell, of Augusta, on Wounds of the Abdomen; Dr. J. P. Garvin, of Augusta, on Nervous Irritation of the Stomach. Voluntary Communications from any member of the Society are earnestly requested, and will be gratefully received.

The following, by Dr. W. T. Grant, was adopted:

Resolved, 1st. That the Medical Society of the State of Georgia, return their sincere thanks to the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church, for their kindness in extending the convenience of their lecture room to the Society. 2d. That the thanks of the Society be extended to the profession and the citizens of Augusta for their liberal hositality and kind reception of the members of the Society.

Dr. Campbell offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the funds of the Society now on hand, as by the report of the late Treasurer, be placed in the hands of the President and Treasurer, to be used in procuring such artistical illustrations as may be deemed necessary for the articles published under the auspices of the Society.

The following gentlemen were appointed on the Committee of Arrangements for the next meeting:

Drs. H. J. Oglesby, E. E. Jones, John B. Cranford, and G. L. McCleskey.

Dr. Hunter offered the following:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be tendered the President and Secretary for the faithful manner in which they have discharged their respective duties.

The following by Dr. Arnold, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be tendered to the press of the city for the courtesy extended to it as a body.

A motion was passed instructing the Secretary to have published the resolutions of thanks to the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church, the physicians, citizens, and press of Augusta, in the Augusta papers.

Dr. Grant offered the following:

Resolved, That this Society do now adjourn until the second Wednesday in April, 1858, to re-assemble in the town of Madison, Morgan County, Georgia.

Preservation of a Body.—The Vicksburg Sentinel, of Mississippi, relates the following:

On the 27th of February the remains of Mrs. Mary Jane Tompkins, first consort of Hon. P. W. Tompkins, former member of Congress for this district, and a sister of ex-Governor Helm of Kentucky, were disinterred. She had been interred seventeen years on the 4th inst., enclosed in a zinc coffin, which was filled with alcohol, which was re-enclosed in a wooden coffin, and all carefully packed in charcoal. The wooden coffin and top of the zinc one were somewhat decayed, but the corpse itself was in a perfect state of preservation, features natural and hair as flexible as in life."

COMMUNICATIONS.

(For The Medical World.)

HISTORY OF A WOUND.

London, April 14th, 1857.

To the Editors,—The very man is now living who was reported more than 25 years ago to have had a large rough bar of iron, one inch in diameter, with a square or blunt end, forced with great violence entirely through his chest,—entering near the middle of the sternum but to the left of it, of course passing very near his heart, the larger blood vessels and the left lung, if not through some of them, and yet "*still he lives*" to labor and enjoy life, for I myself have seen him this day in the streets of London, a fine, hale looking, able-bodied seafaring man.

The following facts, in this remarkable case, which are most fully corroborated, I gather from his own lips. His name is John Taylor, —at the age of 20 he was shipped here as a sailor on board the Brig Ann, of Scarborough, Capt. John Gove as master. That on the 6th of May, 1831, while the vessel was laying in the London Docks, he was with other men on board, helping to direct and enter the step-bolt, or pivot of the try-sail mast into its place in the main boom, when the tackle gave way knocking him down backward on the deck, the ponderous mast with the pivot fixed in its lower end dropped endwise directly upon his chest; the iron plunging into it, according to the eschar, just under the 4th rib to the left of the sternum, passing through the thorax, backward and downward, coming out, according to the eschar on his back, very near to the spinal column, but to the left of it, crushing through 4 of his ribs. Thus pinning him fast to the deck for a considerable time, because the bolt that went through him, penetrated the plank of the deck, while the whole weight of the spar apparently rested by its broad base upon his chest, compresing it in a most shocking manner, until he could be released. As dead, or dying at least, he was taken to the London Hospital, where under the prompt, thorough, and persevering treatment of Dr. J. G. Andrews, he entirely recovered so that in less than one year he could resume the labor, fatigue, and exposure of a sailor's life. He shipped for a long voyage. From that day to the present, he says he has led a mariner's life, being the most of the time on the sea, which is now nearly 26 years. During this time, he states that he has very general good health, with the exception of a fever, and some attacks of bowel complaints while in tropical ports. He affirms that he has no kind of general or local weakness—is a thorough temperance man—has no sensation of stricture or tightness about the chest—no kind of pain or disagreeable sensation there—has no cough, nor is there now any abnormal sound of the lung or heart, nor any irregularity in his pulse. He certainly appears to be in his prime, as he stand erect, a noble, fine looking officer as he is, with a powerful voice, a natural, well developed, resonant chest ; possessing fine muscle, a brawny arm and face, that dares to face danger, and endure the storm.

He is just in from the South Seas, and while conversing with him in the Black Wall Depot, he informed me—of what the medical world knows—that the bar of iron was taken from the mast while he was under treatment in the Hospital, and finally deposited in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, where is also a portrait of him, and of his eschar. The case being one possessed of so much interest, I went with him to the museum buildings in Lincolns Inn Fields, where he was identified beyond a doubt, by the officers, and will be presented before the first meeting of the society. We found the portrait, record of dates, eschars, &c., very accurate to his appearance and story. In those few lines of record, I find also that at the same accident, his scalp was extensively laid open and pulled from one side of his skull—that the inferior maxillary bone was fractured so badly, that a portion of it, with several teeth, were removed by surgeon Andrews, while nearly all the fractured bones in the several wounds exfoliated more or less before final healing. Also, that the mass of damaged cartilage and integuments taken from the region of the sternum, as well as the crushed portions of the ribs and integuments so nicely dissected away from the posterior wound, are together kept as wet preparations, and can be seen in the London Hospital. It is also stated that the mast was 39 feet long, and weighed 600 pounds. In less than one year, as I said before, he was discharged, not enfeebled, deformed much, or decrepit, but a man able to do duty.

On being questioned, he stated that he had not been in London, nor seen that huge iron which had been driven so fearfully through his vitals, for more than 17 years. We observed after a little, that, as that sturdy man contem-

plated the cold mass of iron that so providentially *had not taken his life*, he was moved to tears. I have neglected to state that on examing the bolt of iron, it appears to have been made by a blacksmith from an ordinary bar of round iron, 1 inch in diameter, cut off square at the end, while near its middle is an enlargement, or a kind of ring welded about it as a hilt, while the other portion is made square and tapered off to a point, with barbs along on the corners to make it hold in the wood, when driven into the end of the mast.

Here, dear doctor, let us inquire into, or suggest rather, the modus operandi of his escape from instant death. Was it not simply, or mainly in the first instant, from the fact that the iron bolt was blunt square on its end? Such an abtuse instrument could not penetrate the anterior wall of the chest until extremely depressed or carried back before the iron to rest quite solid upon the anterior portion of the posterior wall, which would of necessity displace or push to either side the soft viscera of the left lung, pericardium and aorta, thus puncturing terribly, it is true, only the two walls of the chest without actual laceration, or any other solution of continuity of those vital organs within. Now this case, so long known to some, is to my mind, not only rare and intensely interesting, as one of those, where men do sometimes "escape as by the skin of their teeth," to have health and long life added to them; but it is highly suggestive and profitable, in a practical sense, both to physicians and surgeons, and for this reason mainly, I do report it to you.

First, then, we notice, and with admiration too, the truly humane practice of careful, prompt, but most thorough surgery, *not withheld* in this apparently, utterly hopeless case. How often do the sick or wounded fall into the hands of men possessed of little faith or force, and consequently less courage and still less action. To wash away the comminuted bone and blood, to smooth the superficial edges of the wounds, and dress by compress, in such a hopeless case, would be the extent of their practice or advice; then leave him until some convenient hour, perhaps unmoved, alas! to ache, fatigue, and die. If he survives in spite of them, yet is he just as surely lost,—if not by actual death, still is he in a chronic death, as to life, labor, and the pursuit of happiness, by deformity, decrepitude, or broken constitution, from the wear and tear of soul and body in the atmosphere of the sick room, while awaiting the slow process of sloughing cartilage—while burning up under the irritation, degenerate growths or successive operations, consequent upon the first neglect of shivered bone, smashed vessels, nerves, tendons, and deep-seated soft parts. Once neglected,—which is too often the case, in country and private practice,—and the sequel is sad, even under good subsequent treatment. To have the patient live, and be useful too, should nerve every medical and surgical man to promptness, thoroughness, and perseverance.

We hear of skilful commanders on the sea,—we hear also of undaunted bravery and heroism at posts of importance and danger in the service of military life; but in every branch of our noble art, we want, we must have, more of that grit of nerve, hand, head, and heart, who will only deliberate to do their duty to the extreme sick and wounded, with the devotion of a true physician, showing in the same character both consummate skill and unflinching, unfaltering bravery.

Make such use of this account as you see best. If I see other really new or rare things in the line of our profession that may prove interesting and useful, I shall write you again while on my tour. But so far, the Hospitals of London, having a world of interest to me, after years of confinement to the sphere of my practice, present nothing so rare as to be of more than ordinary interest to others.

Yours very respectfully,

ALFRED C. GARRATT.

[Communicated for the Medical World.]

HORACE MANN VS. TOBACCO.

BY W. A. ALCOTT.

There are not a few individuals among us, who, being the possessors of but a very small share of that faith which works by love, regard as pitable, every man who labors in an up-hill cause. They denominate him a one idea man; as having mounted a hobby which he is likely to ride to death. Some go even a step farther; and, after eyeing askance the innovator upon general usage or opinion, many long years—perhaps scores of them—with as little or almost as little success as had Noah of old, when he held forth to a world which was "doomed," pronounce him insane. Or if, for "wise reasons," they do not venture to say, "He hath a devil, and is mad," they secretly think so.

Men are to be found on the stage of active life—several of them who have labored many years to persuade people "to keep under" their appetites. I will not at present particularize, except in an instance or two with which nobody else seems disposed to intermeddle. I refer here, in the first place, to the war which has been waged, for several years, by Rev. George Trask against tobacco; and in which for the most part he seems to have stood comparatively alone. Yet from what has recently met my eye I have dared hope his labors are to be seconded and sustained, and that other laborers may ere long enter a field which is obviously one of the most important.

At a meeting of the Ohio State Teachers' Association held at Columbus, Ohio, Dec 27, 1856 a committee consisting of the Hon. Horace Mann, H. H. Barney, Esq. Prof. Marsh, Prof. Young and G. E. Howe, Esq., was appointed to recommend some action respecting the use of intoxicating liquors, profane swearing, and tobacco, in the schools and colleges of the State. This committee, after a hasty consideration of the subject, made a report of several pages, in which, after very brief remarks on the evils of alcoholic beverages and profane swearing, they entered upon a discussion much more extended on the subject of tobacco. That part of the report which relates to this topic I have ventured to copy entire. The committee present ten reasons why tobacco ought not to be used; and close their remarks with the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That all school teachers should use their utmost influence to suppress the kindred, ungentlemanly, and foul-mouthed vices of uttering profane language and using tobacco."

We are not told whether the report was accepted; though the presumption is in its favor, of course. But without farther delay let us have the extract.

"1. Tobacco is highly injurious to health, being pronounced by all physiologists and toxocologists to be among the most active and virulent of vegetable poisons. That consumers of tobacco sometimes live many years does not disprove the strength of its poison, but only proves the strength of the constitution that resists it; and that strength, instead of being wanted in resisting the poison, might be expended in making the life of its professor longer and more useful.

"2. It is very expensive. The average cost of supplying a tobacco-user, for life, would be sufficient to purchase a good farm, or to build a beautiful and commodious house, or to buy a fine library of books. Which course of life best comports with the dignity of a rational being—to puff and spit this value away, or to change it into gardens and cultivated fields, into a nice dwelling, or into the embalmed and glorified forms of genius? What a difference it would make to the United States and to the world, if the 400,000 acres now planted with tobacco, within their limits, were planted to corn or wheat!

"3. Tobacco-users bequeathe weakened brains, irritable nerves, and other forms of physical degeneracy to their children. The fictitious pleasures of the parent inflict real pains upon his offspring. The indulgences of the one must be atoned for by the sufferings of the other—the innocent expiating the offences of the guilty. Nor, in regard to these personal and hereditary injuries to the mind would the committee stand merely upon the principle laid down by the physician, who, when asked if tobacco injured the brain, replied promptly in the negative, "for," said he, "people who have brains never touch it."

"4. Tobacco-users are always filthy; and we read of an infinitely desirable kingdom into which no unclean thing can ever enter.

"5. Tobacco-users are always unjust towards others. They pollute the atmosphere which other men desire to breathe and have a right to breathe in its purity. A smoker or chewer may have a right to a limited circle of the atmosphere around his own person, but he has no right to stench the air for a rod around him and half a mile behind him. He has no right to attempt a geographical reproduction of river and lake by the artificial pools and streams he makes in steamboat and car.

"6. A tobacco-user is the common enemy of decency and good taste. His mouth and teeth, which should be the cleanest, he makes the foulest part of him. When one sees a plug of nasty, coarse, liver-colored tobacco, he pities the mouth it is destined to enter; but when one sees the mouth, he pities the tobacco.

"7. The old monks used to prove the pollutions of tobacco from scripture; for, said they, it is that which cometh out of the mouth that defileth a man.

"8. It has been argued that the adaptation of means to ends which characterizes all the works of creation, intimates that snuff should never be taken, for had such been the design of nature, the nose would have been turned the other end up.

"9. It may be fairly claimed that if nature

had ever designed that man should chew or smoke or snuff, she would have provided some place where the disgusting process could be performed systematically, and with appropriate accompaniments, but no such place or accompaniments have ever yet been discovered. Tobacco is unfit for the parlor, for that is the resort of ladies, and should therefore be free from inspissated saliva and putrified odors. It is not befitting the dining-room, where its effluvia may be absorbed or its excretions be mingled with viand and beverage. Still less does it befit the kitchen where those culinary processes are performed which give savor and flavor to all the preparations which grace the generous board. It should not be carried into the stable, for that is the residence of *neat* cattle, and the occupants of the sty itself would indignantly quit their premises should one more lost to decency than themselves, come to befume or bespatter or besnuff them. There is no spot or place among animals or men which the common uses of tobacco would not sink to a lower defœdation.

"10. Swiftly tending to destruction as is the use of intoxicating beverages, vulgar, ungentlemanly and sinful as are all the varieties of profanity, unjust and unclean as are the effusions and exhalations of tobacco, yet their separate and distinctive evils are aggravated ten fold when combined and co-operating. How abhorrent to the senses and the heart of a pure and upright man is the wretch who abandons himself to them all! Physiology teaches us that as soon as alcohol is taken into the stomach nature plies all her enginery to expel the invader of her peace. She does not wait to digest it, and pass it away, as is done with the other contents of the stomach, but she opens all her doors and summons all her forces to banish it frnm the realm. She expels it through the lungs, through the mouth and nose, through the eyes even, and through the seven million pores of the skin. So let tobacco be taken into the mouth or drawn up, water-spout fashion into the nose, and firemen never worked more vehemently at a fire, nor soldiers fought more desperately in a battle, than every muscle and membrane, every gland and emunctory, now struggles to wash away the impurity. Every organ, maxillary, lingual, labial, nasal, even the lachrymal, pour out their detergent fluids to sweep the nuisance away. Not a fibre or cellule, not a pore or sluice-way, but battles as for life to extrude the foul and fetid intruder. Hence expectoration, salivation, the anile tears of the drunkard, and the idiot drool of the tobacco-user—all attest the desperation of the efforts which nature is making to defecate herself of the impurity. When people first begin to drink or chew or smoke, outraged nature, as we all know, often goes into spasms and convulsions, through the vehemence of her conflict for escape. Finally she succumbs, and all that constitutes the life of a man dies before death.

"The apostle enjoins his disciples to keep their bodies pure *as a Temple of the Holy Ghost*. But in such a body what spot is there—what space so large as a mathematical point—which the Holy Ghost, descending from the purity and sanctity of heaven, could abide in for a moment? Surely when a man reaches the natural consummation to which these habits legitimately tend, when his whole commerce with the world consists in his pouring alcohol in, and pouring the impieties of profanity and the vilenesses of tobacco out,—gurgitation and regurgitation, the systole and diastole of his being—he presents a spectacle not to be paralelled in the brutes' kingdom or in the Devil's kingdom, on the earth or elsewhere."

CLERICAL HEALTH.*

NUMBER XVI.—BY WM. M. CORNELL, M. D.

Biblical Rules relating to Health—Bible designed for all—Blood the Life—Hygiene of the Bible—Bread—Fish—Shell-Fish—Swine's Flesh—Mosaic Ritual of Health, founded in Nature—Daniel and his Companions—Prescribed Care for the Sick—Cleanliness—Hebrew Law of Marriage—Hereditary Diseases—The proper use of Stimulants.

It is admitted that the Bible was not given for the exclusive purpose of teaching how to preserve, or recover lost health. Still, it is believed that no man has read this book understandingly, who has not discovered much in it which relates to both these particulars. The science of *Hygiene* is clearly taught in the Scriptures. It is to be remembered that the Bible was not composed in a single age, nor by any one man. The period from the time Moses wrote the first book till the Apostle John wrote the last, was about sixteen hundred years. It was designed, not for one particular age or nation, but for all nations, throughout all time. Its instructions, therefore, are general rather than particular, and designed for all rather than the few. What, then, does the Bible say about the *preservation* of health, &c.?

*Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1856, by WILLIAM M. CORNELL, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.

Surely, every clergyman should know this. As the *blood* is more important than any other portion of the animal economy, (if one part can be considered more important than another) let us see what is said of this vital fluid. Immediately after the flood, God said to Noah, "The life of the flesh is the blood," and he was forbidden to eat the blood, *because* it *was* "the life of the flesh." The same was repeated again and again, in the Statutes given to Israel. "Ye shall eat no manner of blood, whether it be of fowl or of beast. Whatsoever soul it be that eateth any manner of blood, even that soul shall be cut off from his people." Though the reason, originally assigned, why they were not to eat the blood, is not repeated in all these cases, yet undoubtedly it remained the same as when given to Noah. The truth of this declaration, to wit, that "the life of all flesh is the blood," was alternately believed and denied from the days of Noah till about the year 1770, when *Dr. John Hunter* established it (as one would suppose) beyond all controversy. It has already been stated that every part of the body is made from the blood, and this of itself, would seem to establish its vitality. This command to eat no blood, shows what regard was had originally to the preservation of health.

The prescribed treatment for recent *mothers* among the Hebrews, shows, also, the same fact; and the excuse rendered by the Hebrew midwives to the officers of Egypt for not obeying the cruel mandate, to "slay all the male children," shows that the hygienic rules of the Hebrews were highly beneficial to these mothers. There was an idea communicated in this excuse of "*Shipuah* and *Puah*," that "the Hebrew women were not as the Egyptian women," in the hour of their trial, which speaks volumes in favor of the Mosaic regulations for the promotion of health.

The Mosaic treatment prescribed for mothers, after confinement, is worthy of the attention of the physicians of our times; and, if the same regulations were enforced now, it is believed we should be greatly relieved from those fearful ravages of puerperal fever, which often make sad havoc among mothers. By an observance of similar rules, the greatest affliction might have been averted from many families, and reproach from many physicians.

The *dietetics* of the Bible are worthy our attention. The bread of the Hebrews was of much better quality than is usually found in our day, being neither spoiled, like ours, by being *too fine*, nor soured with *leaven*.

Those *fish* which were possessed of fins and scales only were to be eaten. Carniverous quadrupeds and birds were prohibited. Of those which lived upon *vegetables*, the camel, the coney, the hare, and the swine, were forbidden. Shell-fish were also prohibited. It is known that these latter have a strong tendency to produce cutaneous diseases. Some physicians now prohibit them, especially in persons subject to diseases of the skin. Though many devour shell-fish voraciously, yet they are a very questionable article of diet, especially as they are usually taken with but little mastication, and but a small share of vegetable food. But even if they were wholesome among *us*, they might well be interdicted among a people in a country where the leprosy prevailed. Besides, shell-fish have been found to be poisonous from the substances on which they have fed. Some have supposed that *salt rheum* and other cutaneous diseases, have originated from a diet consisting mostly of shell-fish.

As it respects those *birds* and *beasts* which feed on carrion, it is well known that they are prone to hydrophobia. But if there were no danger on this ground, their flesh is so disgusting that this alone would be a sufficient reason why it should be rejected. The flesh of the *swine* is a questionable article of diet. It has been a very general opinion of medical men that their flesh is apt to produce scrofula.

There is generally some foundation for old maxims, and it is well known that scrofula takes its name from a Latin word which means a swine. Many diseases have, unquestionably, been produced by what is called "measled pork." Somebody has to eat this pork. Rarely is the carcass of a "measled" hog destroyed. In a warm climate, the grease of the hog cannot be tolerated as an article of diet. The food of the hog is of the most loathsome materials; frequently from offal, poultices, and filth of every kind. Those who advocate the necessity of hogs acting as scavengers of the city, do not consider that they may be recommending the rehashing of garbage for their own stomachs. It has been said that one great object of the Puritans coming to New England was to establish a religious commonwealth, as nearly upon a model of that of the Jews, as the difference of circumstances would admit. To say nothing of other innovations among the first settlers, forbidden food was presented at almost every meal. Pork with beans, pork in gravy, pork with fish, pork with chicken, and, it is said, though I do not vouch for its truth, "pork with molasses."

It is believed that these prohibitions of Moses to the people of Israel have substantial reasons in nature. The Bible forbids the eating of that which "dies of itself, or is torn of beasts." This is but the dictate of common sense. That which "dies of itself" must be diseased. That "which is torn of beasts" may be infested with poison, or hydrophobia. The diseases of animals have often been communicated to man. Persons have died by wounds received while dissecting diseased animals. The *cow-pox*, though harmless, proves that disease may be taken from an animal, and if a harmless disease may be thus communicated, a deadly one may be.

From these remarks may be inferred the importance of avoiding those kinds of food prohibited by the statutes of Moses. If the Hebrews kept all these statutes they were to be blessed, and no small part of this blessing consisted in the *act of keeping them;* while by disobeying, they were sure to find among them "consumption, and burning ague, which should consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart." Did any nation ever have more of these plagues than ours? Was "consumption" ever more prevalent than among us?

If the meat which is sold in our city were butchered upon the principle which we have seen laid down in the Bible of not "eating blood," it would be much more healthful than it is at present. It is said, the manner in which the Jews kill their meat divests it in the shortest possible time of almost every drop of blood. The throat is cut so quickly, and thoroughly, at a single blow, and the animal placed in such position that the blood spouts out so as to drain the flesh almost in a moment.

It is generally admitted that too much *animal* food is taken for the health of our community. Such was, undoubtedly, the case in the luxurious court of Nebuchadnezzer. The Jews there had been brought up in a different system, and were fully satisfied that that kind of living, partaking profusely of the king's meat and wine, was not the best way to promote health. They, therefore, made this request to the king, or rather to his officers — "Certain of the seed royal, from the land of Judea" were there; among them were Daniel and his companions. "He purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank." His request to be fed on *pulse*, with its success, is well known. "At the end of the ten days, — the time allotted for the experiment — they were fairer and fatter, than those who drank of the king's wine and ate of his meat."

Though this may not prove that we should never partake of animal food, yet it does prove that the diet which these Hebrews preferred, was better calculated to promote flesh and beauty, than a course of "meat and wine." It shows, then, all that we have referred to it to show, namely, that their course of diet was a good one, and superior to that of the king of Babylon. "Hast thou found honey?—eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be filled therewith and vomit it." Here we are taught the importance of *temperance* in eating.—*Honey* is taken for all eatables, and, being *sweet* it is supposed one would be inclined to eat that to excess, as much, at least, as any one thing. Therefore, in giving us a caution in eating this, it is sufficient for all times and kinds of eating.

Are we satiated with an excess of aliment?—the Bible points to a remedy: "The full soul loatheth an honey-comb, but to the hungry soul, every bitter thing is sweet." This, as every physician can testify, is the best remedy for an overburdened stomach. Who does not know that "*hunger* is the best sauce?" Thus the Bible teaches a good system of hygiene.

Nor is this book wanting in prescribing for the sick. Thus, in the case of young Timothy, worn down with the exhaustion and mental anxiety so inseparably connected with the duty of the ministry, we find the great Apostle, who had seriously "charged" him in many things pertaining to the duties of his office, prescribed a *stimulating* course:—"Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities?" Timothy must have been a remarkably *temperate* young man, who would not take even *wine*, in sickness, until he received the direction of Father Paul.

The *cleanliness* demanded in the Bible shows that this book is calculated to promote health. Hydropathy, ablutions, the use of water in almost all forms are not simply recommended, but *required.* They were enjoined as religious rites, and a part of the common hospitality bestowed upon strangers. Even the priests, (clean as they were) when consecrated to the sacred office, were to be "*washed with water.*" Abraham provided it for the angels who visited him. The great Head of the church "*washed his disciples' feet.*" No devout Hebrew would eat without the previous application of water. Every Jewish place of worship had ample provision for "washings." If we, Gentiles, came

nearer to these Jewish customs, we might be quite as healthy. In contagious diseases, the Hebrews were commanded *to separate the sick from the healthy*. This was especially the case with those infected with the *leprosy*. A person laboring under this disease was to dwell without the camp of Israel, and must be marked as a *diseased* man by a covering upon his upper lip; and, when he saw any one approaching, even before he came within the polluted atmosphere, he was to cry *unclean, unclean*, which was equivalent to "*stand off*, for death is here." Nor was the *diagnosis* of this disease to be left with the patient himself, or to any self constituted umpire, but to the regularly commissioned *priests*, who were, also, the regular *physicians*.

The Hebrew law of marriage between persons of certain degrees of consanguinity was of vast moment in promoting health of body and vigor of mind. This Mosaic law, if enforced among us, would be of vital importance to our community. Says a most respectable physician of our own time, "Idiocy, deafness, blindness, and other imperfect development of the offspring are results which we frequently witness from intermarriages between relatives. Congenital blindness is often the effect of marrying *cousins*. In one family, from this cause, three children have been known suffering under this misfortune. Almost every physician has witnessed instances of this kind. *Dr. Wallace*, of New York says, "In the New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, there are several pupils who owe deafness to the relationship of their parents."

This subject has not received that attention which its importance demands, either from physicians or theologians. If that portion of the Presbyterian church which suspended one of their clergymen for marrying a sister of his deceased wife, had turned their attention to, and directed their efforts to prevent inter-marriages between *blood* relations, they would have been much more worthily employed, and rendered better service to their generation. There seems to be an allusion to *hereditary* diseases in the following passage:—"I, the Lord thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments. Take heed in the plague of leprosy that thou observe diligently, and do according to all that the priests, the Levites, shall teach you; as I commanded them, so ye shall observe to do." The law of leprosy, here referred to, had been made known, and in connection with the promises of reward to the obedient and punishment to the disobedient. Thus, we see how strictly the Mosaic institutions were guarded. Half the diseases of life are hereditary; insanity, gout, epilepsy, scrofula are among them. Let physicians and clergymen do their duty to the community, and there would be a vast improvement in the haalth of coming generations.

The Bible prescribes the proper use of alcohol: "Give strong drink to him that is ready to perish, and wine to him that is of a heavy heart." Every physician, at all skilled in his art, understands this. He administers his *stimulants*, his cordials, even rum, brandy and wine, when Nature flags. Thus, he jogs her vitals and rouses up her sleeping energies, until the powers of the run-down machine acquire their accustomed play.

In fine, the Bible inculcates more tending to preserve and give health, than one half the numberless "Practices of Medicine," and three fourths of the sermons and "bodies of Divinity" ever written or spoken.

(Communicated for The Medical World.)

MONTHLY MEETING OF THE SUFFOLK DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Messrs. Editors:—This society held its monthly meeting for "medical improvement," on Saturday evening, April 25th, at their rooms in Temple Place, Dr. Channing, the President, in the chair. Dr. Homans, Jr., the newly elected Scribe, officiated for the first time.

The meeting was better attended than usual, probably from the fact, that eatables and *drinkables* have been provided at several previons meetings, and many may have supposed that something of this kind would have been provided at the present meeting. Such, however, was not the fact. Whether the funds have been used up, or whether from some other cause, they were compelled to go home from this meeting hungry. However, the substantials had at the previous meeting, seemed to have produced a good effect at this one.

The Secretary read a long record of the last previous meeting. Dr. Durkee introduced a patient, a boy about a dozen years old, with

impetigo, of some four years' continuance. He had been under the treatment of other physicians, and he, Dr. D., thought badly treated, which was very evident from the fact that any physician would let such a disease as this become of four years' standing. Dr. Dr. first applied an ointment of some arsenical compound, but this only irritated the disease. He was now using an ointment of which the chief medicinal ingredient was nit. unguent. Under the use of this the patient seemed to be improving. He had been under Dr. D.'s care only about three weeks. The constitutional treatment was arsenic. Dr. T. Mason Warren asked what was the result of a long-continued use of the preparations of arsenic? Dr. D. had seen no injurious effect from employing it, except a slight threatened attack of paralysis in the *fore-arm*, which ceased upon the suspension of the *remedy*. Dr. Cornell inquired of Dr. Durkee if he had ever employed the stilingia sylvatica, as an alterative in cutaneous diseases? Dr. D. said he was unacquainted with that article. Dr. C. said, In the first volume of the "Charleston Medical Journal," published in 1846, he had met with an article by Dr. Frost, speaking of the alterative properties of this root, and its beneficial effects in diseases of the skin. From that time to the present, now more than ten years, he, Dr. C., had employed it with much success, in this class of diseases. For the last two years he had used the stilingine, in doses of two or three grains three times a day.

Dr. Buckingham said, he had read an article going the rounds of the journals, on the injurious effects arising from the use of arsenic, which he had considered a hoax. Dr. Warren made further remarks upon employing the preparations of arsenic; said he had used it some seven years in one case, and he thought, with good results.

Dr. Durkee said he had used the Asiatic pill, which is an arsenical preparation, for a long time. Dr. Stevens asked if this pill possessed any advantage over "Fowler's Solution." Dr. D. thought it more convenient.

Dr. Lyman related several cases of gout, or *rheumatism*, commencing with severe pain in the *joints*, and disappearing as suddenly, under the use of a fomentation. Dr. Stevens had seen one similar case. Dr. G. S. Jones had had a case of this kind in a pregnant female, but it did not attack the joints. Dr. Cornell had been called to a lady who was pregnant,—a patient of another gentleman, who was out of the city, at the time,—Dr. C. found her sitting upon the bed, writhing in agony, and supposed she was in labor, but she said it was only a neuralgic attack. She said she had been subject to such attacks, and had often sent for her physician in them. She was relieved by an anodyne. Dr. C. saw her no more, but had learned from her family physician that these sudden attacks of severe pain continued to occur up to the time of her confinement, which she had now passed, and both mother and child had done well.

Some little *sparring* took place between Dr. Channing and Dr. Storer, Jr., about a case or two which Dr. C. had formerly reported. All seemed to be of a good-natured turn; no heavy guns were fired, and no damage done.

Dr. Ayer spoke of a case of anthrax under his care, of a severe character. He had pencilled it around with tr. iodine, to prevent its spreading. Dr. Warren said his treatment of such cases was to etherize the patient, and make a crucial incision down to the bottom of the anthrax with a large knife, and, usually, in a few days, the whole mass sloughed out.

The business, so far as related to "medical improvement," having been accomplished, Dr. H. B. Storer read a long and weighty report upon abortion and the laws of the commonwealth thereto relating, and recommending a new code upon this subject. The report was deferred for consideration to a future meeting.

MEDICUS.

FLOATING FACTS.

Snuff.—A celebrated divine of Boston, Dr. Cooper, by the constant use of snuff, brought on a disorder of the head, which was thought to have ended his days. A very large quantity was found, after death, lodged in the nasal cavities.

Gen. Sullivan began early in life to take snuff. It injured, essentially, a fine voice which he possessed as a public speaker. When he was an officer in the American army, he carried his snuff loose in his pocket, which is said to have been made of leather. At times he had violent pains of the head; the intervals grew shorter and shorter, and the returns more and more violent, until his sufferings ended in a stroke of the palsy, which made him insensible to pain, rendered him helpless and miserable, and lodged him in the grave before he was fifty years of age.

Foreign Fanaticism.—At Geneva there is a new religious sect called Bortists, or *Table Talkers*, from one Bort, the originator. They assemble round a table, very much as thousands of crazy-headed men and women do, regularly in many towns and villages of New England.

The spirits who speak by this table and by the mouth of the minister, are amongst the most distinguished. For example—"The Angel David," the "Angel Uriel," the "Angel *Luther*," the "Angel Michael," and more often, by a profanation still more impious, our Lord himself is introduced, and when he commences to speak he announces himself by these words, "Peace, my lambs, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen." Then the assistants rise and continue standing through respect, but remain seated while the other spirits speak.

Already the answers of this new oracle form two volumes, published by M. Bort under the title of 'Divers and Mysterious Revelations or Communications between Heaven and Earth through the medium of a Table. Lausanne, 1854." In these two volumes there is not, according to the editor, a syllable which has not been dictated by heaven, the preface "by Jesus Christ himself," and a second preface is "by the Angel Gabriel."

Laws of Growth.—In the Phrenological Journal it is asserted as an established fact that in the United States the size of the people is diminishing; this is particularly the case in the older States, where there is a greater degree of the excitements of trade and commerce, of fashion and literature, than it is in the border settlements or newer States. New Hampshire and Vermont are newer States than Massachusetts, Connecticut and Eastern New York; and the people among the Granite hills and Green Mountains, where the land is in a ruder state and requires great physical labor, are of larger stature and more stalwart proportions than those in the older settlements. In the West, where the habits of the people are very laborious, and their diet plain and simple, the people are an inch or two taller on an average than they are on the Atlantic border; so also in the mountainous portions of Tennessee and Virginia, and along the Alleghany ridge in Pennsylvania and New York.

The law of growth is a subject of prime importance, and parents should comprehend and obey it. In the first place, a sufficient amount, and the right kind of nourishment, are absolutely essential. Neither tree nor shrub, animal nor man, can grow luxuriantly without being properly fed. The food of the human race, especially in the eastern portion of the American continent, it can not be disputed, is al together too concentrated and rich, and therefore too highly stimulating to the system to be adapted to healthy growth. All farmers know that a crop may be stinted or diseased by overmuch manuring of the land, especially with many of the very strong fertilizers—that a colt fed on corn will become constipated and diseased before he is fully grown, and he is therefore fed on a simple diet, such as he is able to digest and assimilate. "Milk for babes" is both nature's law and common sense in this matter. That our food is too highly stimulating can hardly be denied. Fruits, milk and farinaceous food are the appropriate diet for children.

Law of Human Mortality.—1. The ratio of mortality invariably increases from youth to old age.

2. This rate is continually accelerated, even in a higher ratio than a geometrical progression.

3. In early manhood the ratio does not differ much from a slow arithmetical progression.

4. There are no crises or climacterics at which the chances of life are stationary or improving.

5. There are no periods of slow and rapid increase succeeding each other; but one steady, invariable progress.

6. The law, though not the rate of mortality, is the same for city and country; for healthy and unhealthy places; for every age, and country, and locality; and this law is, that the differences of the logarithms of the rates of mortality are in geometrical progression.

Thermometrical Mania.—In Messrs. Fowler & Wells' Life Illlustrated, there is a biographical memoir of a Mr. Merriam, who gives himself to the study of the weather with an intensity to give him a place among the national celebrities. His house in Brooklyn is one of the two stations where his observations are made, his office being the other. Upon the outside of the former are ten thermometers, connected with long wires leading to pits of salt water, in accordance with Mr. M.'s theory of atmospheric temperature. The house is protected from lightning by five rods.

A Family.—When the present governor of Hongkong had an interview with Someditch, a great Siamese nobleman, in the course of a pleasant conversation, he told Sir John Bowring that he was sixty-four years of age,—and that he had *one hundred living descendants.* The two youngest, a little boy and girl, had precedence of the other ninety-eight, and were magnificently adorned with jewels and various golden ornaments.

Coining false money is punished by cutting of the right hand of the coiner; and simply for passing bad money, the fingers of the person who is guilty of so doing. Most of those thus maimed to answer the behests of a violated law, die of hemorrhage, owing to the ignorance of the native surgeons, who have no knowledge of the true mode of securing bleeding vessels.

Herbivorous Men.—A tribe of Indians live in California who may be denominated omniverous without qualifications. A rancheria, or family of them were encamped on the Feather river in 1849, subsisting entirely on Nature's bounty. When a crop of acorns falls short and fish are not easily speared, they feed luxuriously on snails, worms, roots and insects. A kind of sweet grass grow in the valleys which they eat with avidity. Mrs. Bates, authoress of "Four Years on the Pacific," says on page 151,—"In the season of this grass I have seen numbers of them all out feeding like cattle. The children go naked. This grass has a tendency to increase their ordinary dimensions, and you will often hear it remarked, as one makes his appearance—'there comes a little grass-fed.'"

Factitious Liquors in Ohio. — Dr. Hiram Cox, chemical inspector of alcoholic liquors in Cincinnati, states, in an address to his fellow citizens, that during two years he has made 249 inspections of various kinds of liquors, and has found more than nine-tenths of them imitations, and a great portion of them poisonous concoctions. Of brandy he does not believe there is one gallon of pure in a hundred gallons, the imitations having corn whisky for a basis and various poisonous acids for the condiments. Of wines not a gallon in a thousand, purporting to be sherry, port, sweet Malaga, &c., is pure, but they are made of water, sulphuric acid, alum, Guinea pepper, horse radish, &c., and many of them without a single drop of alcoholic spirit. Dr. Cox warrants there are not ten gallons of genuine port wine in Cincinnati. In his inspections of whisky he has found only from 17 to 20 per cent. of alcoholic spirit, when it should have 45 to 50, and some of it contains sulphuric acid enough in a quart to eat a hole through a man's stomach. Dr. Cox makes this public communication because the legislature of Ohio have failed to pass amendments to the liquor inspection law which he had recommended.

Intermarriages. — It is a singular circumstance that the Rothschilds intermarry in almost every case, says the Boston *Bee.* Yet the Jewish race has lived in violation of this law, for thousands of years, without experiencing the effects which are supposed to follow it. In no nation in the world has intermarriage been so general and so long continued, and yet no people exhibit so many shrewd qualities.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

A young lady in Brooklyn, N. Y., has recently had her leg amputated midway between the hip and knee, in consequence of a wound caused by a broken hoop. The hoop was of steel, and in some unaccountable manner penetrated to the bone. The wound became inflamed, and amputation was thus made necessary.

A new institution for the deaf and dumb has been opened at Austin, and Prof. Jocob Van Nostrand, late of the New York Institution, is appointed Principal.

Widow McFarland lost her life in Baltimore by taking arsenic by mistake for magnesia.

The price of a passage to the meeting of the American Medical Association was made favorable, by a reduction of the ordinary price of a passage by water or railroad conveyance.

Two physicians of Wytheville, Va., administered a mixture of chloroform and ether to a boy of five years, on whom they wished to perform a surgical operation, and he died almost instantly from its effects.

Dr. John E. Tyler, Superintendent of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, at Concord, has resigned.

Dr. Dalton has been appointed Professor of Chemistry and Microsopy in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York.

Nurses are being picked up in New York, for taking care of the sick soldiers of General Walker.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, MAY 13, 1857.

MEDICINE IN SIAM.—Says Sir John Bowring, in his late interesting account of the mission to the king of Siam: "The medical science, although under the immediate patronage of royalty, cannot be deemed in a very advanced or satisfactory state." He observed that the Siamese had much confidence in their native doctors; and, on one occasion, when he offered to the Senior Regent of the kingdom the services of the medical gentlemen who accompanied the mission, the offer was accepted with great unwillingness and distrust, though the treatment of the native physicians had obviously failed, and the patient was suffering extreme pain. The chief of the physicians is located within the king's palace, and has a considerable body of *royal doctors* under his orders, who hold the office hereditarily, from father to son. The Siamese divide the profession into two departments; which is, in fact, the broad distinction between surgery and medicine. The number of the professional prescribers is immense, from the lowest quacks to the class that by long experience have attained to some real understanding of the action of particular medicaments on the human frame. The arts of *charlataneria* are as rife in Siam as elsewhere; but the custom prevails there for the protection of the patient, which might, perhaps, with advantage be introduced into other countries, of which the simple condition is, — no cure no pay. When a person is ill, the doctor is sent for, and the first inquiry is, — "Can you remove my complaint?" After deliberation or examination, the reply is generally in the affirmative. Then the negotiation commences as to the sum to be paid for the cure, and the amount is settled by a written contract,—the physician always demanding two wax candles for an offering to the god of medicine, and six salungs, equal to three shillings and ninepence, for the cost of medicines. If the patient's health improves under his care, the visits continue; "if the doctor thinks the case hopeless, his visits cease, and there is an end of the contract."

"There are said to be two medical schools, or systems in Siam, contending for the mastery, — the Indian and the Chinese;—and it would be difficult to say which is most crowded with follies and superstition. There is a Siamese recipe, which seems the nonsense of both. It is a prescription for what was called a morbific fever:—R. One portion of rhinoceros horn, one of elephant's tusk, one of tigers, and the same of crocodile's teeth; one of bear's tooth; one portion composed of three parts bones of vulture, raven and goose; one portion of bison and another of stag's horn, — one portion of sandal. These ingredients to be mixed together on a stone with pure water, —one-half of the mixture to be swallowed, the rest to be rubbed into the body; after which the morbific fever will depart."

There are books on medicine translated into Siamese from the Pali. As regards anatomy, they are, of course, like all ancient works on the subject, exceedingly rude, and full of false notions; but, as regards the application of herbs and simples, many of the instructions are valuable, and the nature of the various portions of the vegetable kingdom is well understood. There is a general treatment of sick persons which is often successful. "They are dieted to a thin rice-soup, with a small infusion of dried fish as a condiment. Shower baths are used three or four times a day. The attendant nurse takes a large quantity of hot water, in which there is a strong infusion of medinal herbs, and squirts it with great violence in a shower of vapor over the body of the patient: this operation is frequently repeated. Rubbing all the joints and limbs and surface of the body, in the manner of oriental shampooing, is an habitual practice. Sometimes the doctor stands himself on the knees of the patient and rubs the whole frame with the soles of his feet."

"The general character of diseases in Siam, differs little from that of other oriental tropical climates. Vaccination has been introduced. The cholera has several times visited Siam. On the whole, the average of mortality is less and the chances of life greater than in most countries in the same latitude."

CHILD-BIRTH CUSTOMS.—People of every country, from the savage to the civilized, have peculiar usages in regard to child-birth. The Indian squaw, alone, and requiring neither assistance nor sympathy, resumes the laborious concerns of her every day life in a single hour after becoming a mother.—Of the perils that surround maternity in refined society, volumes upon volumes bear witness. Sir John Bowning, who has published an account of his recent successful embassy from the Court of England to Siam, gives the following curious statement, respecting child-birth in that far-off country.

"The event has no sooner taken place than the mother is placed near a large fire, where she remains, for weeks, exposed to the burning heart. Death is often caused by this exposure. So universal is the usage, so strong the prejudice in its favor among high and low, that the king himself has vainly attempted to interfere; and his young and beautiful wife, though in a state of extreme peril and suffering, was subjected to this torture, and died while *before the fire*—a phrase employed by the Siamese to answer the inquiry made as to the absence of the mother. A medical missionary told me he had been called in to prescribe for a lady who was *before the fire;* but ere he had reached the house, the patient had died, and both body and funeral pile had been removed. There seems some mysterious idea of purification, such as in some shape or other prevails in many parts of the world, asso-

ciated with a cruel rite. Mothers nurse their children till they are two or three years old, nourishing them at the same time with rice and bananas."

Were a Siamese talapoin to write a comment on our habits and domestic usages, he would surprise his countrymen with an account of the ordinary doings among ourselves, quite as much as the good Bishop Pallagoix and Sir John Bowning amaze us by recitals of their economy A vulgar impression is extensively diffused, that child-birth is a disease, even in cultivated circles. This leads to vigilance to protect the mother, and mechanical and medical assistance, unfortunately supposed to be necessary, has too often interfered with the operation of natural laws, to the destruction of many lives, in unskilful hands.

Drainage in Cities.—A lamentable oversight of the first principles of health is apparent in most of the new Western cities, which are in the process of rapid growth. When men and animals are brought together in masses, as they are in compact cities, the atmosphere is actually poisoned by the evaporation of fluid from their bodies, unless provision is made for carrying off all fluid accumulations, from whatever source, in sewers, under ground.

Waste water and filth of every description, soon festers upon the surface, and exhalations from it are taken into the lungs. Such impurity must affect the public health and lead to a mortality that might have been avoided. The ancient Romans were a wise race, in reference to health. Their sewerage was never surpassed by the moderns, and probably never will equal it.

Chicago is in a lamentable condition, from a defective drainage. The inhabitants may escape for some years to come from the penalty that hangs over them, for violating the fundamental laws of health,—suffering putrid water to underlie their street planks, and stagnate in the shallow gutters.

Mr. Chesbrough, the engineer, will partially remedy the difficulty, by raising the grade of the streets, but the municipal authorities deferred the measure too long.

All the Western cities appear to have neglected this important subject. St. Paul, in Minnesota,—that great city that is to be,—should cover up the ditches, and drain all water, that moves sluggishly from the prairie mud-lots, into the Mississippi. In that way the citizens will permanently secure the first element of prosperity,—the public health.

Bibliography. — The press is still quiescent in regard to medical publications. Some small, by no means striking, works are winding their way slowly along, but without producing any sensation.

Probably a few months more may elapse before authors commence operations. Pamphlets, controversial in character and intention, cannot be classed with books, and hence no prominent place is given to them in catalogues.

Medical gentlemen look to Philadelphia and New York for medical books. They have become literary medical centres. Some indications of approaching activity in the way of professional authorship are discernable abroad. Where are the strong men who used to think soundly and write profoundly?

MARRIAGES.

In Boston, S. M. Bigelow, M. D., of Paris, France, to Mrs. L. Barton.

DEATHS.

In Boston, Mrs. E. L. Moriarty, wife of the late Joseph M. Moriarty, M. D., of Boston.

At Dover, N. H., Mrs. S. E., wife of T. J. W. Pray, M. D.

At South Reading, Mass., Dr. Joseph Poland, 48. He had practised his profession in that town thirty years, honored in life and lamented in death.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 2.

Sarah J. Reed 16 yrs., Margaret Bartlett 57 do., Eliza Quinn 21 do., Robt. Mackay 4 do., Elizabeth Le Ray 54 do., Edward Fish 47 do., Caroline Raus 46 do., Margaret Cokely 2 do., Edward E. Kenney 2 do., Michael Connors 18 do., Wm. A. Wills 2 do., Fanny B. Weld 22 do., Frederick Emerson 68 do., Richard H. Ingalls 35 do., Ellen Ryan 40 do., unknown female child 5 days, Minnie A. Watts 16 do., Edward Murphy 6 mos., John Calvin 15 do., Charles L. Bell 7 do., Walter C. Dunham 18 do., Silas Rice 2 do., Catharine Carlton 90 yrs., Daniel Dugan 55 do., Bridget Byrne 13 mos., Mordecai L. Wallis 78 do., Robert Dalm 39 do., Lodema C. Fuller 25 do., Mary T. Henchman, 29 do., Samuel Gray 65 do., John Cosgrove 20 do., Maria I. Wells 47 do., Ellen Hamilton 29 do., Murtagh Sullivan 75 do., Edward Nason 24 do., Josiah Dunham 83 do., Emma C. Herson 19 mos., Jas. Gorman 8 do., Wm. J. Fitzpatrick 2 yrs., Edward McDonnell 2 do., Eliza Crowley 4 do., Catharine Moran 2 do., Mary Leary 27 do., Allen Trowbridge 3 do., Philip W. Bixby 53 do., Mary Farrell 1 day, Hannah Sullivan 8 mos., Dora Mahan 15 do., Ellen Mahan 15 do., Lizzie E. Rich, 18 do., Walter L. Crossman 17 do., Franklin W. Gray jr. 3 do., Catharine O'Neal 20 yrs., Henry M. Moore, 29 do., Sarah M. Smith 46 do., Emma Adams 4 do., Susan A. Mudgett 24 do., Margaret Gardner 84 do., Jane M. Colgan 45 do., Elizabeth Vaughan 36 do., Bridget M'Donald 6 do., Joanna Hickey 27 do., Mary Daley 32 do., Julia O'Brien 62 do., George Tucker 34 do., Ida A. Mitchell 3 do., Eliza Cooney 27 do., Charles Mulcox 22 do., Joanna Driscoll 1 day, Lucretia W. Dorn 15 mos., Esther O'Connor 7 do., Emeline F. Smith 3 do., William Magee 5 do., Harriet B. Sleeper 5 do.

Diseases. — Inflammation of brain 4, bronchitis 2, consumption 18, croup 3, dropsy in head 4, infantile diseases 3, scarlet fever 12, disease of heart 2, old age 2, palsy 2, teething 3, other diseases 1 each, 17.—Males 30, females 42. Total 72. 52 were born in the United States, 18 in Ireland, 2 in British Provinces.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

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FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS, January 10th, 1857.

DEAR DOCTOR:—Much has been said, and justly so, in praise of the arrangement of the hospitals of Paris. As exhibiting the progress of science, and affording advantages to the medical student, they are, perhaps, the most perfect of any in Europe; the attending physician and student having many important privileges ceded them here, that are denied them in other cities; still, they are, in some particulars, defective. One defect, and the only one that I shall notice here, is the absence of any special wards or hospital for the treatment of diseases of the eye; patients laboring under this important class of disease, being distributed indiscriminately in the various surgical wards. For almost every other important class of disease, there are certain wards; and for some, certain hospitals are set apart for their treatment; such wards being under the control of physicians or surgeons devoting themselves entirely to certain classes of affections, each receiving only such cases as come directly under their speciality, as the venerial hospital, the scrofulous department at the Hospital des Enfants Malides; diseases of the skin at St. Louis; wards for disease of the bladder and urethra, under the care of M. Civiale, at Neker, &c., &c. Why it is that this defect, preventing the connection of oculists with the hospitals, and thus throwing them upon their own resources for improvement, has been so long overlooked, I am not able to say; one thing, however, is certain, that it cannot be for the want of importance of this class of disease.

This defect, so far as regards the medical student, is, to a great extent, obviated by the establishment in the city of several eye clinics upon private resources, at which is congregated three or four times a week a number of patients, the student having, by paying a few francs per month, every facility of studying the diseases of this important organ. It is of these clinics, or rather that of M. Desmorres, that I wish more particularly to speak in this letter.

M. Desmorres is certainly one of the first oculists in France, and has done as much for this particular department of science as any surgeon of the present day. His clinic, to which I have been attached ever since my arrival in Paris, is, without doubt, the best in the city, he receiving more patients, perhaps, than all the others combined—the number examined and prescribed for upon the days of the clinic, frequently amounting to between two and three hundred, a sufficient number, certainly, to experiment upon a large scale.

For the past several years, M. Desmorres has been devoting considerable attention to the treatment of lachrymal fistula, has experimented extensively, with a view of determining the value of the various plans of treatment proposed for the cure of this rebellious affection. The result of these experiments,—and they have been upon an extensive scale,—has been such as to condemn the, at present, most popular method, which consists in dilating the lachrymal duct by means of a stylet. He remarked a few days ago, in a lecture—and since in a private interview, told me the same—that of the hundreds that he had treated by this method, he knew but of *one* case where the cure had been radical. He said that it was possible that there were other cases that he had lost sight of, but that if any existed, they must certainly be very rare, as it was his misfortune to see them return at from a few months to a year after the treatment was discontinued. He has varied the plan of dilating the duct—has used stylets of various forms and substances, continuing the treatment from eight months to a year, and always with the same unfavorable result.

He contends that those who have had such happy results from this plan of treatment, have mistaken a temporary relief for a radical cure —a relief which, as a general rule, does not last so long as the treatment of which it is the result—the duct, in a few months after the treatment is discontinued, presenting the same obstruction as before its commencement. He renounces, then, this plan of treatment as a means of radical cure, resorting to it when, from some circumstance connected with the patient, it is thought best to attempt only temporary relief.

The method of permanent dilatation, by means of the canula of Dupuytren, he considers also objectionable from the numerous inconveniences with which it is attended, there arising, sooner or later, accidents which make it necessary to extract the canula. In some cases, the canula, a day or two after the operation, is displaced, intervening with the cicatrization of the incision for its introduction, in a few cases, this tendency persisting to such an extent as to prevent the success of the operation. In other cases, the canula descends, passing through the canal, and falling into the nasal fossa, the pharynx or the larynx; or, as in a case operated on by M. Velpeau, passing through the palatine processes of the superior maxillary bone, and falling into the mouth. Abscesses at the internal angle of the eye, calling for the prompt removal of the canula, are not unfre quent.

The above are some of the accidents which may arise at from a few days, to a few weeks after the introduction of the tube. Later, the canula may become obstructed by a calcareous deposit, thus exciting an inflammation of the parts, which continues until the foreign body is removed, or, as is more frequent, the tube is obstructed by a sort of hypertrophy of the mucous membrane of the sac and duct, which covers entirely the superior extremity of the canula, and thus preventing the passage of the lachrymal fluid. But few surgeons of the present day are partisans of this method of operating.

Several other operations have been proposed and practised, as the perforation of the os unguis, by Woolhouse, the process of M. Langier, in which he penetrates the maxillary sinus with a trocar, the tear reaching the nasal fossa by dropping through this sinus; but, as it is not my purpose here to discuss the va rious plans of treatment, but rather to give that usually resorted to by M. Desmorres, I shall let them pass for the present. M. Desmorres' favorite method consists in the complete obliteration of the lachrymal sac, either with the chloride of zinc or the actual cautery.

But, if the lachrymal sac is destroyed, what will be demanded by the adversaries of this plan of treatment? what will become of the tears? Or, as I was asked by a distinguished surgeon of the United States, when speaking of this operation, if I regarded the lachrymal sac and duct of so little importance, as to consider it rational to counsel their destruction? In answer to the latter, it might be asked, for example, if any one doubts the importance of one of the inferior extremities; and again, if any one, for a moment, doubts the propriety, under quite a variety of circumstances, of sacrificing this important member? The sac, as the leg, when sacrificed, is diseased, to such an extent as to interfere with its proper functions—the surgeon, in either case, interfering with the hope of placing the patient in a more comfortable position. In answer to the first, as to what is to become of the tears, it is necessary, first, to determine their origin; secondly, to know if they are secreted continuously; and thirdly, what is the part the lachrymal duct performs in their excretion. To discuss, as I would like, these physiological points, would require more time and space than I can possibly devote to the subject; I shall then content myself for the present by giving in a few words, the views of M. Desmorres, with some of the facts in support of his views.

He contends that the lachrymal gland is not the only source of the tears—that the experiments of Magendie, and Martini, upon animals, in which they extirpated the lachrymal gland, are in support of this opinion; they find the eye, in each case, equally well lubricated after, as before the extirpation—the secretion of the tears, to all appearance, being equally abundant. The extirpation of the lachrymal gland in the human subject has, so far, given the same result. In this extirpation by Harpin, Daviel, O'Beirne, Lawrence, de Graefe, Bernard, Laugenbeck, and others, no case has been observed in which the eye presented the least dryness. In the case reported by Harpin, if the conjunctiva, after the exptirpation, was touched with the end of a probe moistened with the tincture of opium, the eye would instantly fill with tears, and to such an extent as to overflow. It is evident then, from the above facts, that the lachrymal gland plays only a secondary part in the secretion of the tears; the greater part being secreted by the vessels

of the conjunctiva. As an evidence of their secretion by the conjunctiva, if we touch that membrane so as to remove the fluid which protects it, we will instantly see appear upon its surface, thus touched, small drops of liquid, which is readily recognized as the tears.

Another evidence, if any other is wanting, in support of the part the conjunctiva has in the production of the tears,is, that in the affections of the gland, and, as we have seen, even in its complete extirpation, there never results *xerosis*, a dryness so dangerous to this organ, and which frequently has place when, from a continuous inflammation, from whatever cause, the conjunctiva presents an extensive cicatrix.

Does the lachrymal gland secrete constantly? M. Desmorres contends that the structure of this gland is the same as the salivary glands, and, like them, secretes periodically, that is, when the surfaces upon which they pour their contents are irritated; regarding the lachrymal gland as a sort of reserve, destined to furnish a flow of liquid sufficient when the conjunctiva is irritated, to rid it of any foreign body that might have lodged upon its surface. That, ordinarily, when there is no irritation about the eye, the gland rests inert, leaving the conjunctiva to furnish alone the necessary amount of fluid to lubricate the eye. M. Hyrtl, of Vienna, advances the same views in regard to the functions of this gland.

It rests alone, now, of the three propositions, to determine the part the sac and duct have in the excretion of the tears. Under ordinary circumstances—that is, when there is no irritation about the eye—the mucous membrane being lubricated by secretions from its own surface, the fluid thus secreted passes off by evaporation. MM. Desmorres and Hyrtl have observed, that, in this normal condition of the parts, there is no fluid to be found, either in the puncta lachrymalia or in the lachrymal canals. The strongest evidence, however, of the evaporation, under ordinary circumstances, of the liquid lubricating the conjunctiva, is the complete absence of epiphora, under the same circumstances, after the complete obliteration of the lachrymal sac. It is then only during a hypersecretion of the tears, from various causes, as a bleak wind, dust, foreign bodies, and many other circumstances which tend to irritate and inflame the conjunctiva or other tissues of the eye, that the lachrymal canals serve to conduct the lachrymal fluid. One of the most prominent symptoms of an obstruction of the lachrymal duct is epiphora. This would appear, without reflection, to be in opposition to the above deductions, and is frequently urged by those opposed to the destruction of the lachrymal sac. As we have seen above, and as all admit, the least irritation about the eye induces a hypersecretion of the lachrymal fluid—this secretion being in proportion to the amount of irritation. In an obstruction of the lachrymal duct, we have all the conditions necessary to induce this hypersecretion; as from the first distention of the sac there is more or less irritation which increases with the obstruction, and, finally, in quite a number of cases, resulting in an abscess of the sac. Epiphora, then, so constant in this lesion, is not so much from the obstruction preventing the passage of the tears, as their increased secretion induced by the irritation of parts. All know how frequent it is to see the eye overflow with tears from the least irritation, as a bleak wind, dust, &c., even when the lachrymal apparatus is in a normal condition. The proposition for which M. Desmorres contends, is the removal, definitively, of the irritation and inflammation of the sac by its complete obliteration. He has, within the past ten years, adopted this method of treating lachrymal fistula in quite a number of cases, and has demonstrated that the increased flow of tears ceases with the removal of the irritation, the patient being cured with the inconvenience of a slight overflow of tears when, from any circumstance, the conjunctiva is excited.

This method is not original with M. Desmorres; it was proposed and practised by Angelo Nannoni, of Florence, as far back as the middle of the last century. The ancients, too, treated lachrymal fistula as they did any other fistulous opening, by the cautery, without a correct knowledge, however, of the lachrymal apparatus.

In the obliteration of the sac by the actual cautery, the sac is freely opened by an incision near an inch in length, commencing a few lines above the tendon of the orbicularis, freely dividing the tendon so as to reach the superior portion of the sac; the incision should be, to some extent, curved, the concavity looking towards the eye. After the hemorrhage is arrested, the incision is dilated by means of two hooks, the eye protected by a compress or piece of paste-board, and the cautery freely applied to the whole extent of the sac. Ice or cold water, by means of a bit of cloth or lint, should be constantly applied for the first twenty-four hours after the operation.

In the obliteration of the sac, by means of caustics, of which M. Desmorres give prefer-

ence to the chloride of zinc, the incision need not be so extensive, and may be commenced immediately below the tendon of the orbicularis. The caustic, if the chloride of zinc be used, may be introduced by means of a goose quill or any other tube, care being taken that the caustic does not come in contact with the edges of the incision. The same precautions, to prevent a too violent grade of inflammation, should be observed, as we have above suggested in the process by the actual cautery. M. Desmorres insists upon the importance of the obliteration of the superior portion of the sac, for reasons that are readily understood.

Much might be said in regard to the particular indications, giving preference to one or the other methods of obliterating the sac, but as I have already extended this letter much longer than I expected, I will, for the present, close.

PARIS, January 20th, 1857.

In my last letter, I proposed to give you the treatment of some of the more important diseases of the eye, as practised at the clinic of M. Desmorres; but, if I am not mistaken, I, in that letter, discussed, to the exclusion of everything else, obstructions of the lachrymal duct. I shall, then, in this, continue my notice of this clinic, commencing with that very common, but important, lesion, cataract.

All have long since renounced the possibility of removing the opacity of the crystalline lens by any medication, either local or general, agreeing that, sooner or later, an operation will be demanded; but, when we come to discuss the manner of operating, we do not find such harmony—every surgeon having his favorite method, which he strenuously contends has its advantages. Of the various operations proposed, we may make two great divisions: one including the extraction of the lens by whatever procedure; the other embracing the various operations in which the lens is left either in the posterior or the anterior chamber. A review of the various methods embraced in these two grand divisions would not be without interest, but as it is my object here to speak alone of those practised at the clinic of M. Desmorres, I shall proceed at once to their discussion.

M. Desmorres is a strenuous advocate of the extraction of the lens, adopting this method under almost all circumstances. The operation by extraction has been usually restricted to uncomplicated cases of hard cataract. M Desmorres goes for the extraction of soft cataract as well as that variety of hard cataract in which there are adhesions between the capsule and the iris. His operations by extraction in soft cataract, so far as I have seen, have been more satisfactory than in the most favorable cases of hard cataract. He has three distinct operations for the extraction of the lens: first, the operation for the extraction of uncomplicated hard cataract, which is the usual operation for extraction; secondly, an operation for the extraction of soft cataract; and, thirdly, a method differing from the other two, which he practises for the extraction of hard cataract, complicated with adhesions between the capsule of the lens and the iris, an accident so frequent in chronic iritis.

The first or the operation which he proposes in cases to which the method by extraction has been usually restricted, differs from the ordinary method for extraction only in the *manuel operatoire*. Thus, instead of completing the section of the cornea with the cataract knife, as is usual, he withdraws the knife before the section is complete—leaving a small point at the superior portion of the flap still in tact. After waiting a few minutes, that the muscles of the globe of the eye may cease to contract with such force, he completes the section with a very delicate probe-pointed knife. He, as the majority of surgeons who perform this operation, insists upon the advantages of the superior over the inferior section—contending that in the inferior section the incision in the cornea is constantly bathed in the secretions of the eye, which necessarily accumulate at this point, interfering with the process of adhesion, and in a number of cases producing a separation of the wound. Again, in the inferior section, the least motion of the lids tend to displace the flap, while in the superior section, if the eye is closed, the superior lid tends to keep the flap in place. In two cases I have seen M. Desmorres, in this operation, extend the flap upon the conjunctiva, extracting the lens without completing the section.

His operation for the extraction of soft cataract, which he terms "*extraction lineaire*," consists in a section of the cornea near the sclerotic with a lancet-shaped knife, as in the operation for artificial pupil; after the section, which is a straight incision, consequently the name *lineaire*, a delicate hook is introduced into the anterior chamber, and the anterior surface of the capsule ruptured in several places. If a small curette is now introduced into the incision, or is passed against the external lip, so as to separate its edges, at the

same time that slight pressure is made upon the globe of the eye, the lens, if sufficiently soft, instantly escapes through the incision. If the lens be less soft, the consistence of jelly, for example, it may be necessary to introduce the curette for its extraction. M. Desmorres insists upon the importance of not rupturing the posterior surface of the capsule, contending that if there is the least wound of the posterior surface of the capsule, the vitreous humor instantly projects, displacing the softer lens behind the iris, and thus preventing the possibility of its extraction. The most beautiful results that I have witnessed from any operation of cataract, have been from this method. I have seen patients leave the clinic at from twenty-four to forty-eight hours after the operation, with complete union of the cornea, they able to see their way.

When there are, from any cause, firm adhesions between the capsule and iris, the pupil permanently fixed, it is evident that the lens cannot be extracted in the usual way; neither can an operation with the needles be performed with any prospect of success. In such cases, M. Desmorres proposes a double operation—artificial pupil with extraction.

His usual plan of performing this operation is to proceed as in artificial pupil, in fact, performing first the operation for artificial pupil, by *dechinement*, making the incision in the cornea, perhaps, more extensive than is usual in the operation, and after, to extract the opaque lens through the opening thus made in the iris. The operation is performed as follows: With a lancet-shaped knife, make an incision in the cornea as near the insertion of this membrane into the selerotic as is convenient; the section made, with a delicate pair of curved forceps, introduced through the incision as large a portion of the iris as is possible, is seized near the pupil, and, by a quick movement, is brought out through the incision in the cornea and clipped off with a pair of scissors. The iris in this operation is torn, the rupture of the membrane following the direction of the fibres converging towards the pupil, thus leaving a triangular opening, the apex of which is directed towards the pupil. Through the opening thus made in the cornea and the iris, a small curette is introduced behind the lens, and after breaking up the remaining adhesions, the lens, before its extraction, is broken into several pieces, if possible, by pressing it against the cornea.

I have seen this operation performed in two cases, and in both with success.

I should have mentioned, when speaking of the usual operation for hard cataract, that M. Desmorres never dilates the pupil in the operation, concluding that the lens is readily extracted without its dilatation, and with less danger of the escape of the vitreous humor. Neither does he *prepare* the patient, as it is termed, for any operation, by a system of dieting, rest, purgation, &c., as is so frequently practised by surgeons. Says that the best time to operate is when the patient is in the most perfect state of health—that by interfering with the general habits of the patient by diet and repose, or by the administration of a purgative, we derange, to a greater or less extent, the general health, and, in a number of cases, favor the development of accidents which we attempt to prevent. I have seen him several times perform the operation for cataract by extraction, upon patients who had but an hour or two before left their usual occupation, and without accident.

Since the discovery of the *ophthalmoscope*, by Halmholtz, in 1851, M. Desmorres has been constantly engaged in the study of the before obscure diseases of the internal eye by means of this instrument. By constant application and improvements in the ophthalmoscope, he has arrived at such perfection, that he examines with the same facility, and makes his diagnosis with the same precision, of diseases of the internal eye, as the choroid membrane, retina, *papilla* of the optic nerve, &c., &c., as the disease of the external membranes. To present the many advantages that have resulted from this discovery would require many pages. It has done as much and perhaps will do more for diseases of the internal eye, than the great discovery of Laennec and Avenbrugger has done for diseases of the chest. M. Desmorres strikes from his nosology that elastic word, amaurosis, which has for centuries served to cover the ignorance of oculists of the many lesions of which it is only a symptom.—*Atlan. Med. and Surg. Jour.*

OLD PHYSIC STRICTURED.

BY ABRM. LIVEZEY, M.D., NEW HOPE, PA.

NO. II.—HYDROPHOBIA CONTINUED.

In our previous article upon this subject, it was proven that the *poison* is contained in the saliva, or mucus of the mouth of all rabid animals, otherwise the disease under consideration could not be transmitted from one to another,

by a *bite;* hence the virus introduced into the system, through the external cuticle, is excreted upon the mucous membrane of the mouth and alimentary canal, and if removed therefrom by *rational* and *sustaining* means as fast as it is eliminated, it remains to be shown by actual experience, and observation, whether this disease —so long the opprobrium of medical science —cannot be cured, at least as uniformly, as other forms of grave disease. But what can we look for,—what can we naturally expect as the result of the lethiferous treatment recommended by our orthodox works—but death.

Let us briefly pass in review the treatment advised by the great heads and lights of the profession. Says Prof. Wood, vol. 2, p. 759, 2d ed. :—"The whole magazine of therapeutics has been exhausted, and vainly exhausted in the treatment of hydrophobia. Bleeding in every degree, mercury, opium, and all other cerebral stimulants, tobacco and all other nervous sedatives, the acids and the alkalies, oil of turpentine, cantharides, white hellebore, cevadilla, the salts of lead and those of iron, nitrous oxide inhalations, the injections of warm water and narcotics into the veins, the poison of vipers, &c., have all been employed, and with the same sad result." In conclusion, he adds, "I do not pretend to recommend any course of treatment where I can adduce *no sound therapeutical* principle in its support!" Such is the condition of the self-styled "regular practice," and hence declared the great Majendie, "there is scarcely a sound physiological principle amongst us, (the profession.)

Prof. Gibson, the late eminent veteran surgeon in the University of Penna, says, in the 2d volume of his celebrated work on Surgery, that, "if rabies canina (hydrophobia) be established, then various remedies may be *tried;* (!!) of these, opium, mercury, belladonna, cantharides, (Spanish flies) volatile alkalies, arsenic, and blood-letting have been considered the most powerful." Powerful indeed to destroy, but not to relieve or cure the doomed and tortured patient.

In Elliotson's practice by Stewardson, an approved text book, will be found the following in reference to this disease :— Overwhelmed with the sad conviction that the learning and talents of the most experienced and energetic physicians have utterly failed in arresting the progress of this dreadful malady, the practitioner, when called upon to act, must still respond to the awful question,— "what is to be done?"

We have endeavored in our previous article to answer this question, and have detailed, for the instruction of the profession, the various energetic measures that should be perseveringly employed : — and if we may believe Thompson and his disciples, (and *why* should their testimony be doubted,) not only human beings, but dogs have been cured by a similar —though less energetic treatment than that we have in our preceding article described.

In corroborative proof that the treatment we have advised for hydrophobia will be found generally successful, I transcribe cases bitten by venomous serpents, which were cured by agents acting in the same general principles that we have attempted briefly to elucidate. Dr. Miller, of S. C., relates the case of a man bitten by a rattlesnake, and he found him swelled, face black, tongue enlarged and out of his mouth, eyes starting, &c. Two tablespoonfuls of olive oil were poured down him, which produced *free vomiting and purging* in thirty minutes, and relief was instantaneous.

Mr. Ireland, Surgeon, relates five cases, in all of which there were violent symptoms present from bites of very poisonous serpents, for which he gave Fowler's Solution—2 drs. for a dose—in all of whom it produced *severe vomiting* and *purging*, and cured them.

Thus were their systems freed from the morbid virus effused in the alimentary canal.

But if the poison induce a *periodic* disturbance of the system — exacerbations or paroxysmal attacks with intermissions — as Dr. Wood and Elliotson testify to be the case *sometimes* even in hydrophobia, let them be treated as the following case, reported by Dr. J. Adams, Rochester, N. Y., June 7, 1851 :—H. A., Oct. 16,—ten years before was bitten by a rattlesnake, and ever afterwards *towards the latter end of each month*, he had an inflammatory attack in his eyes with diminished vision. The leg that had been bitten would swell enormously so as to involve the whole of the same side of the body. A kind of mania would seize him, and though at other times, a most peaceable lad, when under the influence of the paroxysm, he would attempt the life of any one that offended him. The pain was very intense. He had tried both Doctors and Quacks in vain. Dr. A. commenced treatment the 20th of the same month, by giving a powder of quinine and hydrocyanite of iron. The next month, the paroxysm was later than usual, and not half so violent. On the 20th of the next month, he resumed the powder and instead of a paroxysm, he passed only a sleepless night. And thus the disease wore off at once. The leg was rubbed with *tinct. belladonna.*

L. R. received a severe scratch on the back of his hand, from a cat. The hand, at *regular periods*, for several years afterwards would swell, burn, itch, and present a purplish and blistered appearance, preceded by chills, or rigors, feverishness, &c. After taking a little laxative medicine and poulticing for some days, it would gradually subside. But five drops of Fowler's Solution, thrice daily, cured it permanently. As a matter of interest we cite the following:—Dr. Blackburn of Flat Shoals, Ga., in a letter to the "American Lancet," gives an account of the cure of the bite of a rattlesake in a negro female, some eight hours after the bite was inflicted, by giving her an abundance of corn whiskey.

This he states is the fourth case of bites of poisonous reptiles which have been cured by him by the use of the same remedy.

Dr. Brainard, however, says (vid. Smithsonian Report, 1854) that the bite of that serpent has proved rapidly fatal on intoxicated persons. He believes that the solution of iodine and iodide of potassium will retard death, if it does not prevent it, applied to the part.

MALIGNANT DISEASE OF THE RIGHT UPPER JAW.

BY. A. F. SAWYER, M. D.

J. H., stock-driver, aged 45 years.—Full, robust habit; family healthy and long lived; entered the Hospital, Dec., 1855.

The patient reports that he "has never had a sick day in his life," until the commencement of his present troubles. In June last his attention was directed to a small immovable swelling beneath the right orbit. The tumor increased rapidly in size, was not painful, but a little tender on pressure; by November it had become as large as a hen's egg, when an attempt was made to extirpate it. He says the operation was only in part successful, the tumor being adherent to the bone, and its removal attended with the most profuse hemorrhage. The wound assumed for a time a healthy appearance, which however was not of a permanent character. On the return of the disease, the pain, which at first was scarcely sufficient to excite attention, has occasioned the severest distress to the patient, requiring the free use of morphine to enable him to obtain rest.

On examination, the right cheek is found to be nearly destroyed by an ulceration of a decidedly malignant nature. The integument surrounding the ulcer is tumid, darkly discolored, with an abundant vascular net-work shining through the cuticle. The margins of the ulcer are jagged, nodulated and everted; the surface of the ulcer is depressed, covered with dark colored sloughs through intervals of which angry fungous granulations protrude. The lower eyelid is reddened and œdematous, but the globe of the eye appears sound. The diseased surface extends from the margin of the orbit to near the angle of the mouth from above downward, and laterally from the base of the nose to the zygomatic arch. There is a constant icherous discharge from the surface of the ulceration, and occasionally profuse hemorrhage from the eroded vessels, requiring the use of powerful styptics and even the ligature to secure. The patient enjoys his food; digestion natural, and otherwise he appears in good health; pulse 80, full and strong.

Jan. 2d.—The patient being placed under the influence of sulphuric ether, the diseased mass was extirpated through the cheek, the primary incisions being in the healthy integument along the margins of the ulceration. The entire maxillary bone was removed with its nasal palatini and orbitar plates, as well as the malar bone. The natural texture of the bone was found, to a great extent, to be replaced by a cheesy semi-solid deposit of a grayish color, and evidently had its origin in the antrum maxillare. The patient lost but little blood during the operation.

The wound went on cicatrizing well, and had nearly healed, the patient improving correspondingly in general health, until the 15th of March, when a few nodules covered with granulations were observed at the bottom of the wound, and at the line of division of the palatine arch. Soon after smaller tubercles began to be felt underneath the skin along the margins of the wound. At the close of March the patient was seized with the local and general symptoms of phlegmonous erysipelas in the right temporal region. The redness and tumefaction soon extended to the opposite side of the cranium, the cheek and eyelids becoming swollen and œdematous, preventing vision. The patient was laboring under a high irritative fever, and complained of the most intense aphalgia. From this period he soon began to sink; the local inflammation soon terminated in abscess; a free incision was made through the scalp a little above and behind the right ear, and about 4 oz. of flocculent pus escaped; a complete breaking down of the textures be-

tween the scalp and the brain rapidly followed, so that the pulsations of the brain were plainly communicated to the scalp in this region. After suppuration became established, the generally erysipelatous appearance of the opposite side of the cranium gradually subsided, with some relief of the acute pain in the head. This improvement was only of a temporary nature; with the relief of the head symptoms the right lower extremity began to show inflammatory symptoms of the same character, and subsequently the left, without advancing to suppuration, however, until the vital powers of the patient became exhausted, and death came to his relief. At the middle of April up to the time of his death, there had been a most abundant flocculent discharge from the temporal abscess; the pus was without fetor and had a healthy appearance.

At no time were any cerebral symptoms present, until within a few hours previous to the fatal issue, when he fell into a kind of stupor, from which he could be easily aroused by questions energetically addressed to him.

The curious fact is worth noticing, that on the appearance of the local inflammatory symtoms, the fungous granulations, as well as the tubercles above spoken of, had nearly disappeared by absorption, and no signs of disease could be found in the wound itself. The general treatment pursued was in the administration of gentle laxatives at the outset, followed by tonics and stimulants, with the free use of opium. The local treatment consisted of anodyne and cooling lotions, followed by fomentations when abscess was threatened.

A "post mortem" six hours after death revealed the annexed results: The viscera of the chest and abdomen generally healthy; traces of inflammatory action were found in the venæ saphena, crural and iliac veins, more strongly marked in the left lower extremities. It should be stated that when the left limb became involved in the morbid action, the right assumed rapidly its natural appearance. On an examination of the cranium a large portion of the right parietal, the squamous portion of the temporal, the temporal portion of the frontal and the great wing of the os sphenoides, had been completely broken down by the destructive ulceration, not even an ossific spicula of their remains existing. The dura mater was found entire, although somewhat thickened. It formed the inner wall, the scalp forming the outer wall of the abscess, described in the temporal region. The brain was perhaps a little firmer than natural, otherwise intact; the inner walls of the abscess were covered with a thick caseous deposit, resembling that removed by operation, only in a more pulpy condition. The metastasis of the malignant action in this case is one of great interest, the train of symptoms, both local and constitutional, bearing a close resemblance to the phenomena usually observed in acute erysipelas, which goes on to suppuration.

The inflammatory action developed in the lower extremities probably resulted from purulent absorption, for no symptoms were exhibited here until the formation of abscess in the temporal region. In this abscess there was no appearance of fungus.

Another singular feature in this case is exhibited in the condition of the dura mater, which seems not only to have resisted the ulcerative process which had broken down the right side of the cranium, but absolutely to have become much thickened, to afford a more ample protection to the brain within. At no time was there any tendency to delirium exhibited; the patient suffering only for about 48 hours from an intense cephalgia, which, on the appearance of suppuration, became easily tolerated.—*Cal. State Med. Jour.*

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

Commencement exercises were held on the 26th of March, preceded by two days exercises in public reading and examination of Theses.

The examinations, both private and public, were decidedly more than a form, and were sustained with great credit by those who received the honors of the Institution. This seems to be the universal testimony and opinion.

The Commencement exercises were held in Union Hall, a room capable of seating over 1000 persons, and it was well filled by former graduates of the College, members of the State Medical Society, by men of various professions, and citizens generally.

The Thesis upon "The Oxygen Carriers" was an unusally logical and closely written production, and although quite intricate in its development, was listened to throughout with attention.

The Address to the Graduates was in Dr. Andrews' peculiar and impressive style, and was received with almost every possible demonstration of favor by the audience, a very large portion of whom were his personal friends.

The address was, indeed, in its way a gem of the first water; not, to be sure, polished down to the most absolute smoothness, or set with such surroundings as to attract attention from its native lustre, but like a *diamond* picked up from the rich mine, and though with some of its angles still upon it, yet sufficiently wrought to exhibit its purity, its brilliancy and its exceeding value.

We need not characterize it further, as we shall, by the request of the class, and the permission of the author, exhibit it in our columns. We append a list of the Graduating Class, with the subjects of their Theses.

Robert E. Barnes, Peritonitis; Robert Bruce, Adynamic Fever;‡ Timothy T. Coleman, The Liver;† Thomas Dawes, Phthisis; Jeremiah W. Dearborn, Typhus Fever; Washington A. Engle, Chemical Agency of Heat; Joel H. Fisk, Pernicious Fever; Charles A. Fletcher, Blood-letting; James B. Ford, Death; George F. Hand, Acute Peritonitis; William Wallace Hipolité, Zymotic Diseases;† Robert C. Hutton, Fibrin; James R. Kay, Medicine —The Mysterious; Henry M. Lilly, Microscope;† Solomon McFarland, Dyspepsia; Augustus G. Merrett, Necrosis; Wm. Parmenter,* The Oxygen Carriers; Henry Pearce, Auscultation; Samuel J. Redfield, Therapeutical Action of Water; John B. Rice, Sequelæ of Malaria; Samuel A. Sabin, Strabismus;† Dwight Sayles, Animal Heat;† Cyrus Smith, Alcohol; James F. Weeds, Cholera; George B. Wilson, Surgery and Surgeons;† George D. Wilson, Gangrene; Milton C. Woodworth, Cathartics.

The number of students in attendance during the course of lectures just closed was 168 — an increase upon former years.—*Penin. Jour. of Med.*

POISONS.

The burden of complaint against the medical profession, on the part of many who advocate certain exclusive systems of practice is, that *poisons* are recommended as remedies for disease; and there are some in the community, perhaps, who inconsiderately adopt the prejudice, without reference to the actual signification of the term. Webster very handsomely defines it thus:

"Any agent capable of producing a morbid, noxious, or dangerous effect upon anything endowed with life. All medicines possessing sufficient activity to be of much value, are always poisons in inordinate or excessive quantities; and every thing poisonous is capable of proving medicinal in suitably reduced quantities. The ancient Greeks employed the same word both for a medicine and a poison. There are as many different modes in which poisons operate as there are different and distinct medicinal powers of any material activity. According to the popular notion, those articles only are poisonous which are capable of producing morbid, noxious, or dangerous effects, in comparatively small quantities; but there is no just foundation for such a distinction."

In view of this definition of the word *poison*, it would seem to be very absurd to proscribe an article of the *materia medica*, merely because it is poisonous in large doses, however harmless, or useful, it may be in small. Strychnia, belladonna, quinia, and opium, are all poisonous in certain quantities, and these quantities vary with differences of constitution and condition; but they all cease to be poisonous in certain reduced quantities. One twentieth of a grain of strychnia is as harmless as a single grain of opium, or three of quinia, or half a grain of belladonna, although it might destroy life in twenty times that quantity. And the same will apply equally to other remedies of greater or less power. They may be virulent poisons in certain quantities, and entirely harmless — even inoperative—in certain other and reduced quantities. And this proposition one would think sufficiently plain, to prevent attempts to gull the credulous, by denouncing medicines as poisonous in any and all quantities, merely because they become so when used in large doses —doses which are large in reference to their physiological effects.—*Memph. Med. Recor.*

NATIONAL PHLEBOTOMY.

In Turkey, barbers always follow the profession of bleeders, and precede the physician— being first called to bleed, without reference to the symptoms or real character of the disease. Venesection is universal in the dominions of the Padisha. It is customary for everybody, sick or well, to be bled once a year—and the popular prejudice is in favor of spring. The idea is to draw off humors. In that respect it is no more unphilosophical than an ancient habit in New England of taking *diet-drinks*, which are usually active vegetable cathartics.

* Diploma to be granted on completing term of study.

† Read during examination.

‡ Recommended for publication.

Mothers of families used formerly to compel all the children to drink plentifully morning after morning, to purify the blood, although every one of them were in robust health.

The Turks are famous for the application of leeches, and they seem to revel in scarifications and cupping. This national peculiarity, which is based upon no common-sense principle, gives employment to an immense number of persons. Thus by combining the profession of a head shaver—no beards being shorn—with bleeding in various forms, necessarily brings active business to these sanguinary operators.

We have a distinct recollection of seeing a sign over the door of a barber in Constantinople, representing a naked man, punctured at various points, with the blood streaming, as water is sometimes made to flow from a statue.

COMMUNICATIONS.

(Communicated for The Medical World.)

HOMŒOPATHY;

ITS TESTIMONY AGAINST ITSELF.

A pamphlet with this title has recently appeared, which, in the short space of 28 pages, endeavors to prove, what has already been so frequently demonstrated to the satisfaction of all who are *willing and anxious to believe it*, namely the utter nullity of Homœopathic practice, and its speedy extinction as a system of medicine. Although this is but a repetition of similar efforts which have come before the public again and again, we have nevertheless thought it worthy of a few remarks, because there is considerable originality in the manner in which the author treats his subject. He proposes to prove that Homœopathy is a failure from the columns of its own journals, telling us that "the evidence that a lawyer delights in, is that which is wrung from the witnesses of his opponents;" and certainly the manner in which he has "wrung" and garbled his evidence, would delight any lawyer fond of what is called *sharp* practice.

As we do not wish to encroach too far upon the space of this journal, we shall confine ourselves to a few of the most striking propositions which are put forth in the pamphlet under notice, and these are:

"1. Homœopathy is nothing but quackery, and is treated as such by every state in Europe!

2. The number of Homœopathists in this country and in Europe is contemptibly small!!

3. Homœopathic remedies are not totally inert, as has been asserted heretofore. On the contrary, they are violent poisons, and destroy the health!!!"

To prove his first point, that Homœopathy is treated as quackery in European states, our author introduces a number of quotations from Homœopathic journals, referring in general terms to the persecutions that the system has undergone at various times and in different places. Thus he arrives at the conclusion, based on rather vague premises to be sure, that Homœopathy, "in its relation to the state, that is, to every European government, now stands as quackery, the same as it always has stood; and it has promise of remaining so."—(P. 8.) Now we deny that this is the condition of Homœopathy, past or present. We deny that the followers of this system have been "subjected to the laws against quackery which exist in most European states," because these laws were not intended to apply, and cannot be enforced, against any regularly educated physician. It must be understood that in most European States, a physician, no matter what his persuasion, who has passed his university examination and also what is called the state examination, is free to practise in that state, employing *any* mode of treatment that is sanctioned by his judgment; and he is quite above the reach of any laws against "quackery."

An account of the various persecutions that Homœopathy has undergone in Europe in past times, forms a chapter in the history of this system, which want of space will prevent us from discussing fully. We will therefore only refer to the instrument which was most active in harassing Homœopathic practitioners in the exercise of their profession. This was a law, restricting physicians from dispensing medicines with their own hands, but obliging them to have all their prescriptions prepared by apothecaries. Now this law was intended *exclusively* to regulate and protect the business of druggists. Having been in operation long before Homœopathy was known, its provisions of course had no reference to this system, nor could its restriction be justly made to apply to the new order of things introduced by it in practice. Still this law was occasionally put in force against Homœopathists, and then of course their hands were completely tied; for they were in these cases neither allowed to use the remedies in their possession, nor could they

obtain their prescriptions of the apothecaries, who did not understand the preparation of the Homœopathic remedies, and did not keep them for sale. This was the way in which Hahnemann himself was harassed, and this fact is so well known that, had our author taken the least pains to inform himself properly, he would have been saved from making the false and slanderous statement that "Hahnemann's conduct was such that the magistrates were led to judge him guilty of violating the laws against quackery!" It surely requires but slight powers of discrimination, and a slight desire to see things in their true light, to distinguish between the operation of this law on the dispensing of medicines, and the "laws against quackery." But this law on dispensing was so manifestly unjust in its application to Homœopathic practice that, in the course of time, it became a dead letter in some states, while in others it was either repealed or modified in favor of Homœopathy; so that at present it nowhere offers an obstacle to the Homœopathic physician in the free exercise of his profession.

But, in its early days, Homœopathy was occasionally subjected to more serious attacks. In several states the calumnies and misrepresentations of opponents in high places, were in some instances powerful enough to effect an actual prohibition of Homœopathic practice; although such sumptuary laws never remained long in force. The state of Homœopathy in Austria, about the year 1830, will serve as an example. About this time an edict, forbidding the practice of Homœopathy, was actually published, principally through the influence of von Stift, a bitter opponent of the system, who was the physician of the emperor, Francis I. On the death of the emperor soon after, von Stift lost his place and influence, mainly on account of an impression which prevailed, that this physician had caused the death of his master by the employment of excessive depletion. Soon after this a rescript was issued, annulling the edict against Homœopathic practice. As our author seems to have very erroneous ideas of the condition of Homœopathy in Austria, we feel impelled to give him the following information, which, we can assure him, is *exact*. The practice of Homœopathy has long been permitted in all parts of the Austrian dominions. The free dispensing of their remedies was granted to Homœopathists by Ferdinand I, by an act of Dec. 15th, 1846. Another act of Dec. 19th., of the same year, sanctioned the formation and legal organization of the "Society of Homœopathic Physicians of Austria." That this Society is still in active operation and recognized by the state, is shown by an edict of Oct. 31st., 1856, requesting the society to prepare an account of their investigations, the title and value of their publications, the number of members, &c., this report to be transmitted, together with the reports of other learned societies, for the information of the Board of Culture and Education of France.

We can moreover in this place follow our author's example and "wring some testimony from the witnesses of our opponents," as follows: The editor of the *Vienna Medical Wocherschrift*, a violent opponent of Homœopathy, was obliged to publish by command, in a recent number of his paper, a note from Field Marshal Radetzky, to the effect that he was cured, by his Homœopathic physician, of a cancerous disease of the eye, which had been given up as hopeless by the best ophthalmic surgeons of the old school in Germany. In commenting on this note the editor laments "that it was unfortunately true that nothing could be done against the progress of Homœopathy, as long as it was *sanctioned by the government*."

While speaking of Austria we feel called upon to point out what, we are willing to believe, is an act of unintentional deception on the part of our author. He quotes from a Homœopathic journal that *some* Homœopathic physicians of Austria, to elude the law against Homœopathy, pretend to prescribe Allopathic medicines, while they really give Homœopathic remedies. From this he concludes that Homœopathy is at so low an ebb in Austria that the physicians are "obliged to hide their doings from the police!" and that the system thus "prolongs a degraded existence." Now the *some*, which we have just put in italics, is substituted by the author for the words "army surgeons." These men, when on active duty, were occasionally obliged to use their Homœopathic remedies secretly, if the chiefs of the staff in which they were placed, were opposed to Homœopathic practice. But for physicians in civil practice or in civil hospitals, this expedient was, and is, of course necessary. Now this important little correction having been made, our Austrian colleagues are at once freed from the absurd imputation of being obliged to *hide from the police;* and we hope we shall hear no more about the "degraded existence" or the extinction of Homœopathy in Austria. Again, in speaking of Homœopathy in Bavaria, our author makes use of a similar little artifice

which tends to deceive the reader. He quotes as follows: "The privilege to practise in any town in Bavaria is granted only to favorites, and that they are hardly ever (never?) Homœopathists, may easily be conceived."—(P. 6.) Now the author must have known that the introduction of the word (never?) in this manner would seem to imply that there are no Homœopathists in Bavaria. Yet, on the very page from which he quotes, are mentioned the names of eight Homœopathists residing in Munich alone. Of course he never alludes to them, although it seems impossible that he could have overlooked them. Such little blunders are so frequent that great caution is necessary in receiving the author's quotations and statements.

Another argument of our author's, to show the low state of Homœopathy, is the small number of its practitioners. For once he makes a correct statement in giving the number of Homœopathists in Germany as 439, according to the German directory of Homœopathic physicians; but he cannot refrain from adding, "but undoubtedly they represent the number as larger than it really is," and he insinuates that many are "superannuated or infirm, or unfit for business, or dead!" Unfortunately he does not submit any proof for these assumptions; and so they must go for what they are worth. In speaking of this German directory the author gives us a pretty specimen of the way in which he forms his opinions. He acknowledges that he has never seen the book, yet he tells us that it is "undoubtedly" no more than an advertisement; and that, in the list of physicians, the name of the town where they reside is only given without furthur particulars, lest they should "*be thereby betrayed to the police!*" Does the gentleman *really* believe, or does he only wish to make his readers believe, that Homœopathists are hunted down like felons all over Europe?

Next he gives us the number of physicians in England; but here the temptation becomes too strong for him, and instead of giving us the figures from the best source, that is, a recent directory, he goes back to an *old* journal of 1850. Here he finds the number put down as 116, and this, he thinks, is very little. Now on referring to a directory for 1856, we find that the number at that time was 208, and we cannot but believe that the English Homœopathists must be satisfied with their progress, having nearly doubled their number in six years. The whole number of Homœopathic physicians in Europe, according to Meyer's directory, is 922. Not so contemptible a number, after all!

Next we have come to the Homœopathists of the United States. Here again the author, instead of consulting the best authority, the directory of American Homœopathists, cites an *old* journal of 1852. Here he finds the number in the Atlantic cities to be 398, and sees no reason for supposing that 100 others could be found in the rest of the Union. Now the actual number by the directory is 1436! showing a decided error in our author's mode of computation. These numbers that we have cited authorize us to deny that the number of Homœopathic practitioners is so "contemptibly small" as our author would make it appear. While American Homœopathists may look with pride on their rapidly swelling ranks, they should not undervalue their German colleagues, who, though fewer in numbers, have heretofore contributed more than their quota to the literary and scientific progress of Homœopathy.

But our author's most extraordinary proposition is that Homœopathy is "not a system that uses next to no medicines, but it is a system that is forced to depend upon *large doses of the most active and poisonous drugs!*"—(P. 20.) Hitherto the theme of reproach has always been that Homœopathic remedies were quite inert. But of late years, as the laws of "nature in disease" became better known, even the bitterest opponents of Homœopathy doses gradually modified this treatment; so that they now give nothing or next to nothing in the very forms of disease, in the treatment of which Homœopathists were accused, years ago, of grievous "sins of omission." As the doses of the old school thus gradually approximated to those of the new, it became evident that such proximity was undesirable, and might lead lookers-on to make unfavorable comparisons between the stability of the Homœopathy and the contradictions and changes constantly taking place in the practice of the old school. It thus became necessary that some new bugbear should be found to frighten the people from Homœopathy, and then the cry was raised that Homœopathists gave strong medicines and poisons. Did the gentlemen never see that they were proving *too much?* If Homœopathists are found guilty of giving too little medicine and also of giving too much, is it not a natural conclusion that they may possibly avoid either extreme and give *just the proper dose?*

The Homœopathic poisoning is now the watch word, and to show how well our author

takes his cue, we will give one of his statements as an example. "Children that have received the globules for every slight complaint often show traces of poison imbibed. In some the injury is less obvious than in others, but a certain unhealthful complexion, a peculiar feebleness, or other symptoms, too often indicate the operation of no trifling quantities!"—(P. 20.) This form of accusation is a new one in this country, but we remember seeing something similar in a little scandalous volume, published in Germany about twenty years ago, which moreover assured its adult readers that taking these pernicious little pellets would *affect the mind, cause the hair to fall out, and bring on premature old age!* The moral intended to be conveyed by all these formidable statements is, of course, — avoid pellets and Homœopathy, and return to the good large doses of the old school.

In speaking of this subject the author cites two cases, which again require correction for the inaccurate and deceptive manner in which they are quoted. In the first case, (p. 21,) he gives us to understand that a child died of excessive salivation caused by mercurials given by a Homœopathist. Now this is *just the reverse* of what is reported in the journal he quotes. The child had canorum oris; the physician was accused of giving mercurials, but the coroner's jury found that the child died of natural causes, and *not* from the use of mercury. In the second case, (p. 15,) the author cites a journal which "tells of a coroner's inquest where death was supposed to have been caused by 20 grains of ergot which a Homœopathist confessed that he had given. The editor argues that the dose was a proper one not only in that case, but in all similar diseases." This is false again. The jury found that death was *not* caused by the ergot, and the editor does *not* say that this dose was proper in any disease, but said that this was a proper dose to stimulate the uterus in its natural functions. How can our author expect to have the least influence on his readers when he makes such barefaced attempts to deceive them at every step? But supposing that in these two cases the physicians killed their patients either through ignorance or malice, — does this justify the conclusion that all Homœopathic physicians are in the habit of using poisonous doses?

In giving an example of the "poisons" Homœopathists administer, the author makes a most unfortunate selection in naming white lead and arsenic. He tells us that these two remedies being used together, "one gives vigor and the other ease. They may be continued for several years with good acceptance; but at length a collapse ensues, either of the whole person or of some part." Now we ask, where does our author get his authority for these novel and extraordinary statements, which have never yet appeared in any work on toxicology or therapeutics? Where in the whole Homœopathic literature can he find such a mode of treatment recommended, or such results spoken of? What right has he, in a pamphlet intended for general circulation, and knowing as he must what a vague fear the non-professional public has when it merely hears the use of such a drug as arsenic mentioned,—what right has he to make statements so enormous, and so entirely unsupported by facts? We have said that the author was unfortunate in speaking of the Homœopathic use of these two remedies, because one of them, white lead, is scarcely known in Homœopathic practice; its use as an application to ulcers, &c., as described by the author, is confined altogether to the practitioners of the old school, so that any odium from its improper use must rest entirely with them. As to arsenic, surely physicians of the old school, who accuse any of using this remedy in immoderate quantities, forget that they live in glass houses. It is so easy to refer to that good authority of the old school, the United States Dispensatory, and there to find that Fowler's solution, the preparation of arsenic most commonly used, containing ½ grain of this "poison" to a fluid drachm, is generally to be given in doses of 10 drops, two or three times a day, and this dose to be gradually increased until its *poisonous effects are observed;* these effects being among others, tender mouth, loss of appetite, sickness at the stomach, sometimes salivation and the loss of hair and nails! When Homœopathy can wring such "testimony from the witnesses of its opponents," it is surely not prudent for them to make any more such hazardous accusations, or to talk about Homœopathic dilutions being "as concentrated as any physician can ever wish to give."

In another place our author refers to the use of tart. emetic in the 1st and 2d trituration, and tells us that physicians have used it in these doses for several centuries. But we would remind him that his school occasionally give rather stronger doses. Take as an example the contro-stimulant treatment of Rasori, which had quite a run in the profession, not many years ago; the treatment being to give 1 or 2 grains *or more* of tart. emetic every two hours! In Braithwaite's Retrospect, Part 34,

page 42, we find another specimen of the use of immense doses of tart. emetic in croup, recommended by such authority as Dr. John Eliotson, F. R. S. &c. Here in one case a girl six years old took 32 grains of tart. emetic, in four days. Another child of fourteen months took twenty-seven grains in three days. This treatment caused extreme depression, and produced violent symptoms of tetanus, lasting three days and nights. Yet Dr. Elliotson considers this the best mode of treatment for croup that the old school possesses!

We have thus followed our author's example in giving these specimens of the extreme doses that are sometimes employed by physicians of the old school; but we should be sorry to imitate him in his manner of arriving at conclusions, and to infer from the facts cited that Allopathists habitually poison their patients. Still we do say that Homœopathic doses, being infinitely smaller than the ordinary doses of the old school, they are certainly not liable to do harm; and if "hurtful and even destructive doses of many of the most active drugs may easily be concealed in Homœopathic disguises," why, such concealment is still more easy in the more massive doses of the old school, if such a disguise is attempted for any base purpose. The danger of giving too large doses, either from carelessness or ignorance, is almost null in Homœopathic practice, but very great when the larger doses of the old school are employed; witness the recent case in Baltimore, where a preparation ignorantly prescribed by a physician, caused the death not only of his patient but also of the druggist, who ignorantly prepared it,—witness the cases of frequent occurrence where con. sublimate is carelessly given instead of calomel; in fact, only examine the papers of the day, and scarcely a week will be found to pass without some accident from carelessness in handling these allopathic strong doses.

As to our author's accusation that Homœopathists use large doses *secretly*, it is easy to see that he is here again actuated by that malevolent determination to see everything in its worst light, which is visible throughout his volume. If Homœopathists really make a secret of using anything but infinitesimals, how is it that the use of larger doses is openly discussed in the journals, which, as our author assures us, are written *especially* for the eyes of the general public. The author's opinion of these Homœopathic journals is not very flattering. He says that we might "as well put confidence in the puffs on the last certain cure for consumption," and that "any well-informed person may ascertain by examination" that they are nothing but "quack advertisements." We are perfectly willing to abide by the decision of those persons who are really well-informed. We are confident that their testimony will be to the effect that the Homœopathic journals of this country and of Europe stand as high as any medical journals extant, as regards their standard of honor, as well as their literary and scientific character. But our author can scarcely expect his opinion to be taken on this question, for, as his whole knowledge of Homœopathic literature seems to be based on the perusal of a few numbers of one English and two American journals, he certainly does not deserve to be classed among the "well-informed," on this subject at least.

Neither do we think it worth while to pay any attention to the author's opinion of the Homœopathic law of similarity, since it is quite plain that he is entirely ignorant of its practical application. But while on this point he makes a very remarkable and imprudent admission, he is evidently unaware that *physicians of his school* in Germany, have been and are experimenting with remedies on healthy organisms, just like the Homœopathists. So while speaking of experimenting with medicines on the *sick*, he asserts that "*why the medicine to be experimented with is the one selected, is a matter of little importance;* but the experiments themselves are of much importance." We are sure that the better class at least of allopathic physicians would earnestly deny that they are in the habit of experimenting on their patients in such a wholesale and irrational manner; while their patients would probably be but little pleased with the information that they were the subjects of such indiscriminate experimentation, however interesting the results of such experiments might ultimately be to their physicians. Let such notions get abroad, and these patients might even go so far as to seek aid at the hands of some heretical Homœopathist, who knows the effects of his remedies before trying any experiments at the sick-bed.

Our author gives another curious specimen of his medical knowledge on page 16, where he cites a well-known axiom of Hahnemann's, to the effect that "in cases of sudden disease, threatening speedy death," large doses are necessary to change the morbid state. Hence he draws the strange inference that Homœopathy is of no avail in "severe fevers, croup, dysentery, colic and cholera." Our author

must have curious notions of pathology, and sadly ignorant of the nature and course of disease, if the five forms he has so strangely placed together are the best examples he can give of conditions threatening speedy death. Let us give the gentleman,as familiar examples, cases of asphyxia or drowning, also cases of poisoning; these are conditions where Homœopathy is inapplicable just as much as allopathy, the remedies which every educated physician would employ in these cases being generally such as act on chemical or mechanical principles. Our author was here doubly unfortunate, for he not only exposed his own ignorance, but he also happened to hit upon diseases in all of which Homœopathy has been amply sufficient, while in some of these forms, for example croup and cholera, this mode of treatment has been signally triumphant.

Having thus discussed our author's principal propositions as thoroughly as our limited space would allow, we would, before concluding, advert to one question which involuntarily occurred to us in penning this pamphlet. This question is: Is the author honest? Does he himself really believe all the extraordinary and untrue statements he has put forth? It was a difficult question to answer. On the one hand our suspicions were first aroused by the concealment of the author's name; then we saw numerous statements, palpably false; we discovered quotation after quotation tampered with, unfairly explained, and then used as premises to unjust conclusions. But on the other hand, we have too much confidence in the honor and honesty of our profession, to believe hastily in the absence of these qualities in any of its members. Furthermore, it appeared to us that a man who deceived intentionally,would use more caution than our author has done, and be careful to make his acts of deception more difficult of detection. We therefore came to the conclusion that our author was, or at least *believed* he was, honest, but was what is called a "good hater." If any quality is more common in our profession than another, it is probably a great amount of confidence in what we believe, and a corresponding amount of hatred and intolerance for those who have different opinions. These qualities our author undoubtedly possesses to a great degree, and therefore prejudice so warped his understanding, and gave such an obliquity to his moral vision, as fully to explain the otherwise unwarrantable manner in which he has treated his subject. But although we are willing to acquit our author of any intentional wrong-doing in this case, we find it more difficult to excuse him for the injury he has done, not to Homœopathy, but to the whole medical profession, when we remember how every one of these disgraceful squabbles, characterized as they generally are by a total forgetfulness of professional dignity and honorable feeling, makes us sink lower and lower in the estimation and respect of the community.

But what was the purpose for which this volume was written? From the unscientific nature of its contents, it is evident that it was intended for non-professional readers. In fact, another medical journal has recommended it to physicians as a proper book of which to put copies in their pocket, to be distributed among their patients, as an answer to their questions about Homœopathy. We cannot join in such a recommendation. On the contrary we would, in concluding, warn all physicians to whom their principles of honor are more dear than the promptings of prejudice and party feeling, that if by distributing this book they endorse the statements it contains, they will be just as accountable as its author for the unscrupulous dissemination of a tissue of falsehood and misrepresentation.

H. S. H. Hoffendahl, M. D.

[Communicated for the Medical World.]

IS SICKNESS A CRIME?

Dr. Johnson is quoted by Sydney Smith, as saying that "every sick man is a rascal." Mrs. Swisshelm, some years since, observed, "Persons ought to be as much ashamed to be bilious as to be drunk," and it was brought, as a very grave charge, against the Hon. Amasa Walker, many years ago, that he affirmed, on a certain occasion, that it was "wrong to be sick." But none of these, it may be said, were medical men; what is *their* testimony on the subject?

Now, I am not about to search the medical records, either of antiquity or of more modern days, to ascertain what has been said by those who are deemed competent authority in this matter, both for want of inclination to do so, and for want of time. And yet I am by no means sure that the search would be unprofitable. For the present, however, I will simply do what Elihu of old said he would do, in the case of Job: I will give "mine opinion." Of its value, the public must judge. It is, at least, the result of a long course of observation on a very wide field.

Let me say, then, in a few words, that while I have as little sympathy with the notion that all sickness is criminal, as with the equally popular idea that all crime is misfortune, I have yet no doubt that there is very much ground for both of these beliefs. Most certain it is, that a large share — a very large one — of what we call disease, is the result of transgression against law, *somewhere* and by *somebody*.

That much of this transgression comes of ignorance, I grant; but even ignorance itself is oftentimes culpable. There are many things concerning which we have no right to be ignorant. A man who has eyes and ears has no right to pass through the world with them shut. They are made for use, and thousands are blameable for not considering this. The eye and ear are given them; they did not *make* them for themselves. They are valuable. But are we under no sort of obligation on account of them? Men are not such idiots as to be thoughtless on this subject, and yet blameless. As sure as I have eyes, they are given me to use, — to use as long as I live, — and, in order to this, to be *well* used. When I abuse them, I violate law. Do I not know it? Does not every body who strains and injures his eyes, by reading with a bad light, or with very little light, or by reading bad print, or by reading even good print too long, till inflammation ensues, know he has done wrong? that all wrong is sin? and, *vice versa*, all sin is wrong? May not disease of the eyes, therefore, be wrong?

But are these charges thus made against those who venture to abuse their eyes and ears the only charges of the kind which can be made against a world of free agents, like our own? Has man less to do with disease, — in sowing its seeds, in multiplying and aggravating its causes, and in tampering with the final results, in the case of other parts or organs, than in that of the eyes or ears?

It is a well-ascertained fact, that fully half our population die under ten years of age, — in some localities, more than half under five. Is here no criminality? Is here nothing wrong on the part of ancestors, nurses or physicians? Did God intend, as some have maintained, that a large majority of our race should, like the fruits which we set out in our fields and gardens and groves, perish prematurely? Some, I know, have maintained such a doctrine; but they have been few and far between. There is no earthly reason, nor anything fairly belonging to the world of "mysterious providences," as they are so often denominated, why a single well-established germ of the animal world should perish.

Indeed, the common sense of mankind, both enlightened and unenlightened, when left to its own deductions, without any preconceived theories to support, comes to about this. Thus, a plain man, whom I met in Hartford one day, at the head of a family of ten stout children, most of them already arrived at maturity, said, in reply to certain inquiries and remarks of my own, "Why, sir, it is as easy to raise ten children as it is ten pigs." And the wise and christian editor of the American Annals of Education, for 1830, at page 37, indorses the statements of the first Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of a Manual Labor Academy in Pennsylvania, that the frequent sacrifice of bodily health, in our efforts to develop or quicken the intellect, is neither more nor less than "sinful."

Now, if these things are so, — if the wicked do not live out half their days, *because* of their wickedness, — why should we not say so? Why is the blame, in case of premature sickness and death, and an average duration which should not be less than a century, dwindled down to less than half that period, practically thrown on the great Creator? Let us understand this matter as it truly is, and speak of it accordingly.

But I have said enough for once. My object has been, mainly, to call forth some abler pen than my own, on a subject which greatly concerns human happiness, and which is, by no means, misplaced in the columns of a popular medical journal. The prevention is by means less noble, in the medical art, than the merely curative.

W. A. Alcott.

Auburndale, May 1st, 1857.

FLOATING FACTS.

Persian Poison. — One of the most subtle and remarkable vegetable poisons in the whole range of the botany, is found in Persia. It is from a plant of an ashy white color, found in the mountains of Kurdistan. The leaves being dried and next reduced to a powder, is perfectly tasteless; yet, when taken in very small doses, if the person is of a lymphatic temperament, causes immediate death. In the first instance, after being swallowed, a slight colica pain is experienced, which is followed by utter loss of muscular power, and death closes the scene.

Life of Dr. Kane.—"Dr. William Elder, of Philadelphia," says an exchange. "is now engaged in writing a memoir of the late Doctor Elisha Kent Kane. It can scarcely fail to prove, not only a striking and picturesque narrative of the career of the intrepid adventurer, but also an intelligent delineation of his character, which was more bright and beautiful than the funeral orations and eulogies have told. Christendom, at present, knows nothing of the life of the man now so famous for his deeds. It is the story of that life that we may expect to read in this forthcoming memoir. The public actions of an individual, however admirable, are little in comparison with his noble private qualities. It is Sidney, passing the cup of water from his thirsting lips to the dying soldier at Zutphen, that adds love to the admiration we give to the historic Sidney of the court and the batttlefield; and in like manner, the private generosity and compassion, the self-forgetfulness, the self-sacrifice, and the thousand nobilities which were revealed in Dr. Kane's daily intercourse and relations with his fellow-men, and which the world cannot honor only because it does not know, are more to us than the clam intrepidity that dared the dangers and endured the horrors of the Arctic shores and seas. Something of this, the memoir may make known to us. If it prove to be what we expect it will, it cannot but add a deeper feeling to our present apprehension of the life and character of one whose epitaph seems most fitly written in the words of the old ballad, —

"He was a true and gentle knight—
Ah! well-a-day! Amen."

Ancient Lens. — A glass has been discovered at Pompeii, the size of a crown piece, with a convexity, which leads one to suppose it to be a magnifying lens. It has been said that the ancients were not aware of this power, and the invention is given to Galileo, by some, to a Dutchman, in 1621, by others, while a compound microscope is attributed to one Fontana, in the seventeenth century. But without a magnifying glass, how did the Greeks and Romans work those fine gems which the human eye is unable to read without the assistance of a glass? There is one in the Naples royal collection, the legend of which it is impossible to make out, unless by applying a magnifying power. The glass in question, with a stone ready cut and polished for engraving thereon, is now also to be seen in the museum of Naples.

Artificial Lactation. — A young lady, fast failing in consumption, to quiet a weaning child, whose constant crying was annoying at night, begged the nurse to put it into bed with her, with a view to quieting the little inconsolable. Exhausted with the fatigue of trying to pacify the babe, she fell asleep. While in that unconscious state, the child got possession of her bosom, and drew away smartly at the nipple. On making the discovery that this gratification would at any time appease the petite disturber, it was permitted to have the indulgence. Things went on in this way some weeks, when, to the surprise of the invalid, she found she had a fine breast of milk. In the meanwhile her cough was better, her appetite improved, and her restoration to health was almost certain, when a slanderous report was circulated in the neighborhood, that, in reality, she was a mother! Shocked with the slur upon her reputation, she refused to receive the child again. The milk was dissipated, the old pains and cough returned, and when the lacteal organs were relieved from secreting milk, she died.

Spiritualism in a New Aspect. — Dr. John Moreton relates the case of a patient who disagreed with his wife, she believing in spiritual manifestations while he scouted them. She died, telling him with her last breath that on his death-bed she would appear to him in the body. A few weeks afterwards, Dr. Moreton being then present, the husband died, and as he was gasping his last, a horrible body, through whose decaying flesh the white bones gleamed, and from whose rotten limbs dropped loathsome grave worms upon the floor, entered the room. This horrible form said, "Come, William! they wait for you—I wait," and fell to the floor, where it remained the next day, and the body of the husband being conveyed away, the house was burned. This story is supported by two or three affidavits, taken before Judge Maylor, notary public for Grand Traverse county, Michigan.

Punishment of Unskilful Physicians.— On the walls of the principal pagoda of Bangkok, are pictorial illustrations of the punishments inflicted in the Buddhist hell, for sins committed in this life. One represents a glutton in the agonies of starvation, a wine-bibber lying on his back exposed to the burning rays of the sun, and an ignorant physician, squeezed in extreme torture, under the weight of a great stone, such as are used there for pressing herbs.

A Foreign Luxury. — A dish is prepared in Kandahar, unique in character and composition, that holds a high place in the dietetic scale of Asiatic luxury. It is called *Kesht* in Persia, and made as follows: Some buttermilk is boiled in a very large saucepan, by which means the watery particles escape in the form of steam, and the solid ones are deposited at the bottom of the vessel. When sufficiently thickened, the mass is divided into little balls, the size of a pigeon's egg, which are dried in the sun, and will then keep for years. When required for use, they are dissolved in hot water, and hot melted butter is mixed with the mass for eating.

Why we are White. — A Mohammedan Afghan priest thus explained to a large audience, who wondered how it happened that Europeans differed in color from themselves. General Ferrier was present when the Coly Mollah thus enlightened his ignorant countrymen: "Their faith forbids the European women to suckle their children, and they supply the mother's place by a ewe. This, therefore," he said, "preserves the natural whiteness of the skin; but they are not the less half beast, half man; and that is the reason they cannot understand the sublime religion of our venerated Prophet."

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Dr. Edson B. Olds, formerly a member of Congress from Ohio, contemplates opening a banking house at St. Paul, Minnesota, say the papers. He will find it far more lucrative than the practice of physic, or the pay of a representative.

Dr. J. M. Phillips has been chosen physician to the Boston Union Protestant Society. Probably the institution contemplates gratuitous medical attendance on the poor.

The *Newark Daily Advertiser* says that a boy in one of the public schools of Newark was whipped a few days since by the teacher, who held his head downward between his knees while he inflicted the punishment. The holding the head downward created a rush of blood to the head, causing brain fever, and death a few days afterwards.

Melancholy prevalence of scarlet fever is still recorded at several points south.

Public health in Europe is uniformly good. No epidemic exists. It is a good season for travelling on the continent.

Dr. Walter Burnham, professor of surgery, in the Worcester Medical Institution, has resigned in consequence of ill health. He is a successful operator, and a man of decided genius in the line of his vocation. After the long service of seven years, the trustees will find it difficult to engage the services of a more devoted laborer in the chair thus vacated.

In August, the American Scientific Association will meet at Montreal. Over two hundred invitations have been sent to Europe already, and by the liberality of the various Atlantic Steam Ship Companies, eleven free passages, to and from Montreal have been secured for foreign notabilities in science, who choose to accept a passage. Last season this congress of savans was held at Albany, N. Y.

An unusual number of physician are advertising their locations and good will for sale. What does it mean?

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, MAY 20, 1857.

ESSAYS ON THE PHYSIOLOGY OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. — At an enterprising, but out of the way place called Rockport, in Massachusetts, where granite boulders are strewn about in endless confusion in one direction, and the ocean in its grandeur is rolling in another, a series of essays have been written on that deepest and most difficult of subjects, the physiology of the nervous system.

On first arriving at that famous fishing station and port of entry for Chebacco boats, a stranger would be very likely to exclaim, when told that a philosopher resided there, "What good thing can come out of Nazareth?"

Because a thinking man has the moral courage to differ from stereotyped authorities, and especially when he is right and they are wrong, he cannot always be heard.

Benjamin Haskell, M. D., of Rockport, is the author of a pamphlet alluded to on a former occasion, presented in the form of essays on the nervous system, which is a thoroughly learned production,—quite overlooked and neglected. It is too deep for superficial minds, and perhaps too profound for those who are unwilling to have their notions and biases unceremoniously disturbed.

Dr. Haskell's subject is not for popular reading. He has discussed a subject which has engaged the earnest consideration of practical anatomists and physiologists for ages. His essays are more particularly fitted to the meridian of such minds; still, whoever gives close attention to the author's course of reasoning, must acknowledge both his ingenuity and power.

Had Dr. Haskell written on smoothly, contradicting no orthodox authorities on which ordinary theories are predicated, he would have been spoken of rather respectfully than otherwise: but when old doctrines are turned upside down for the laudable purpose of examining both sides, neglect is the only safe way of meeting the author.

Dr. Haskell has put some complicated machinery in motion; and for this daring act, if he is noticed at all, he must at the onset be flayed alive. But it is altogether probable the conservative physiologists will agree among themselves that their own safety will consist in keeping quiet, and saying nothing, because agitation would be detrimental to them, but glorious for him.

A very slight display of contempt for innovations, —for such is the sneering way of receiving discoveries by those who never had an original thought,—would give Dr. Haskell prominence as a close analytical philosopher. Sound policy will dictate that he shall be kept out of sight at Rockport, which may answer all the purposes the ancient Egyptians gained by exiling talented statesmen to Rhincolura.

If these observations should induce any one to honor Dr. Haskell's essays with a reading, it is morally certain he would also be regarded with favor. There is a freshness and vigor infused throughout the pamphlet, not met with every where. If he is enthusiastic, it is because the glimmerings of new truths animate him.

Opium in Siam.—Although prohibited under severe penalties, the use of this powerful narcotic is gradually extending over the kingdom. Recent accounts show that very degrading punishments have no influence in arresting the progress of a terrible vice. The trade is farmed by a Chinese of great opulence, who has been raised to nobility, which gives him superior advantages for increasing his revenues. He sells about *twelve hundred chests* of gum opium, annually, which is chiefly smoked by his countrymen, the laboring Chinese, who have emigrated to Siam.—The talipots, or native Buddhists priests, and the Catholic and Protestant mission have united in their efforts to stay the progress of opium dissipation, but even the despotic edicts of the king cannot check it. The seeds and leaves of hemp, as in India and Arabia, are consumed at an astonishing rate, for producing *happiness!* A nobleman never moves about without a bearer of his areca box, called *xrab*. Sometimes they are of gold, ornamented with jewels. When a Siamese sits down, if a person of distinction, his servant places within reach the agreeable preparations for making felicity on earth. The consumption of opium in refined circles among ourselves, would excite astonishment, were the facts published.

Betel-chewing is an indigenous vice, of universal adoption in Siam, from his majesty Somdetch Phra Paramendr Maha Mongkut, now on the throne, shaded by seven umbrellas, to the lowest subject in his dominions. The betel nut, mixed with lime, is wrapped in betel leaves, colored by curcuma. By chewing, the teeth become jet black, which is a national beauty. All females stain their teeth black by preparations of the betel nut.

By incessantly chewing the composition, the lips and inside of the mouth are tinged yellow, while the teeth are of a shining black, and the breath hot.—Mixed with areca nut, the woman have their amount of dissipation. After being in the mouth a moment, it produces a sensation something like pepper, which obliges the tongue to move it about—and the habit becomes so intensely permanent, as not to be overcome. Like tobacco it stimulates the nervous system. Whether the use of the betel is as injurious to health as chewing and smoking tobacco, has not been ascertained.

We have seen an Arab chewing betel, who had worn his teeth nearly level with the gums by continually grinding the lime. He contended that it did him good, and that one little ball of his favorite was equal to a meal of food.

Progressive Medical Knowledge.—Whoever examines the beautifully illustrated catalogue of professional works, published at Philadelphia by Messrs. Blanchard & Lea, would very naturally arrive at the conclusion that the science of medicine ought to be thoroughly understood in the United States. If those who practise the several branches of the profession, would read the multitude of excellent books which invite their attention, it would not be said that medical knowledge is not as progressive as it is claimed to be.

No other department of human study presents higher claims to consideration, and certainly, the advances made in physiology and surgery, are among the grandest achievements of modern times. But leaving that thought, let those who are ambitious of doing good in the legitimate line of their vocation, contemplate with pride the immense accumulation of facts brought together in the medical publications of our times, illustrative of the progress of medical knowledge. It is a pleasant occupation to read over the titles of the great volumes which the publishing house of Blanchard & Lea have in readiness, but which find their way very slowly towards the East. Either medical books are not purchased here in a way to have it considered a market, or the various editions which are sparingly mentioned in periodicals, run short before supplies can be forwarded.

A new feature is prominent in this illustrated catalogue, that will have a strong tendency to increase the retail of Messrs. Blanchard & Lea, in medical books, particularly, while it will reduce the Boston

market to a still more limited collection in the bookstores. It is this—viz, the price is given, and the publishers, on the receipt of the money, will send through the mail, to the address of the order,—paying the postage themselves. If the profession avail themselves of this generous proposition, the effect will be to leave us no medicals in our bookstores. Formerly all the new publications were to be had in Boston nearly as soon as they were out of the press. Now, gentlemen read about them at a distance, but the privilege of looking at the quality of the paper, the character of the type and binding, &c. is a gratification rarely indulged. Hence local sales will be gradually diminishing, and fewer of the new books will be read than formerly.

We are confident, from a familiar acquaintance with the general style in which Messrs. Blanchard & Lea print and bind, that every volume transmitted by mail, in all respects, would be selected with much care, and with reference to giving entire satisfaction.

From the latest English catalogue, it is apparent that nothing has been written in Great Britain of late, on medical subjects of a commanding type. The French are more active, particularly in surgical papers. At home the native physicians are at rest, as it respects the production of new works. Since the medical press has been attempting the correction of a growing evil—editing foreign volumes for the gratification of a personal vanity,—seeing one's own name on a title-page where it has no right to be, a bibliomaniacal calm is apparent. It may result in the production of original treatises on various topics, for which the medical talent of this country is abundantly prepared.

MARRIAGES.

In Salem, Mass., Dr. Robert J. Saunders, to Miss S. E. Davis.

At Washington. D. C., Dr. Delevan Bloodgood of the U. S. Navy, to Miss J. E. Ruger of Syracuse, N. Y.

DEATHS.

At St. Louis, Missouri, Dr. Thomas Reyburn. This melancholy event took place on the 8th of April, after a few days illness, in the 38th year of his age.

Dr. Reyburn was a native of Baltimore and a graduate of Transylvania University, having accompanied Professor Nathan R. Smith on his accession to a chair in the Lexington School. Soon after graduating, he came to St. Louis, where he continued to reside in the practice of his profession up to the period of his death.

Although young in years, Dr. Reyburn had, by virtue of his fine talents and well-directed energies, already attained the front rank of the profession. As a writer of ability, he is well known by his numerous contributions to this Journal, as well as by two able and elaborate reports submitted to the American Medical Association, and published in the transactions of that body—the one on "Medical Literature," and the other on "The Diseases of Missouri and Iowa," both of which reports evince unmistakable evidence of a high order of talent, combined with great industry and research.—*St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journrl.*

As a biographical sketch of his life and writigs will in due time be presented to our readers, we do not propose at present to enter upon this subject, but will simply add the following action which was had by the St. Louis Medical Society (of which he was President,) on the occasion of his death, as evidence of the estimate in which he was held by those who knew him best. — *St. Louis Med. & Sur. Jour.*

In Clohina County, Cork, Ireland, James Henry Baldwin, M. D.

In Dublin, Ireland, Mrs. Maria, wife of Edward Hutton, M. D.

In Cork, Ireland, William Traill, M. D., of the Royal Navy.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 9.

Mary Riley 16 yrs, Wm. Riardon 2 do., Jeremiah Sheehan 2 do, Joseph K. Angell 60 do, Mary McGuire 4 days, Wescott Bartlett 3 do., Elizabeth Arundel 1 mo., Timothy Crowley 16 mos., Catharine Holland 15 do., Mary Brannon 16 do., James D. Rowe 4 yrs, Geo. L. Salisbury 37 do., Ole Thorsen 27 do., Daniel Campbell 56 do., Susan Devine 6 do., Ann Murphy 67 do., Mary Gahagan 24 do., Mary Austin 33 do., Kate J. Brigham 26 do., Clara Stone 31 do., Marietta Williams 36 do., Lucia A. Peck 25 do., Franklin Barns 3 do., Edward Murphy 46 do., Thomas Caden 5 do., Mary Tilden 79 do., Jacob F. Bodemer jr. 38 do., Susan Boss 67 do., Ellen Cahill 3 do., Henry Copeland 35 do., Emanuel Eaton 40 do., Levice Hayes 56 do., Elizabeth L. Moriarty 43 do., Richard Dunn 32 do., Michael O'Connell 2 do., Wm. H. Damrell 4 do., Caroline Johnson 23 do., Katie E. Harrington 15 mos., Ellen Lang 1 day, Margaret J. Brough 16 mos., Mary Holland 2 days, Aaron Coffin 58 yrs., James Welsh 50 do., Arnold Hayward 77 do., Patrick Gallagher 56 do., Elizabeth Quinn 65 do., Elizabeth Mainke 46 do., Wm. Armstrong 61 do., Catharine O'Donnell 40 do., Joseph Thomas 49 do., Lucy A. Moore 45 do., Louise C. Hall 3 do., Francis Connelly 9 do., Ann Harris 45 do., Hannah Lynch 18 mos., Sylvia J. Paroloe 3 do., Jane Dewire 1 mo., John Brennan 3 days, Jeremiah Murphy 15 mos., Mary O'Day 11 do., Thomas H. Patterson 25 yrs., Elizabeth Redding 3 do., Catharine Curtis 2 do., James Hinchin 55 do., Wm. McNulty 15 do., Mary Donohoe 20 do., Thos. Atkin 43 do., Catharine Ferriter 58 do., Bridget Callahan 40 do., John Matthews 12 mos., Franklin Pearce 2 do.

Diseases.—Accident 2, apoplexy 3, consumption 15, convulsions 2, croup 2, dysentery 2, debility 2, dropsy in head 2, infantile diseases 5, unknown do 2, scarlet fever 4, intemperance 2, disease of liver 2, inflammation of lungs 3, marasmus 2, scrofula 2, suicide 2, teething 3, other diseases 1 each, 13. Males 33, females 37. Total 70. 50 were born in the United States, 14 in Ireland, 3 in British Provinces, 3 in other foreign places.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE

MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME II. MAY 27, 1857. NUMBER 9.

HUMAN LONGEVITY.

"Buffon says that every animal lives about six or seven times as long as it is in growing. On this supposition the relation would be as 1 to 6 or 7; but the real relation of the period of growth to the duration of life is as 1 to 5, or nearly so. Man is 20 years growing, and he lives five times 20 years, or to 100. The camel is 8 years growing, and he lives to 40: the horse 5 years growing, and he lives to 25; and so on to other animals. We have thus, then, at last, an accurate criterion which gives us with certainty the period of growth. The duration of that period gives us the duration of life."

The argument, thus put, is more summary in manner than satisfactory in substance. We doubt much whether this period of epiphysis, or completion of bony union, has been determined in a sufficient number of animals, and with sufficient exactness, to serve as a basis for numerical results. We believe, further, that the relation of this period to the normal duration of life in different animals, is nothing more than that general proportion which every successive period bears to its antecedents and consequents; rendering each, in some sort, a measure and index to the rest. What is called *epiphysis* is a very limited phenomenon of growth; and, though seemingly the last in the series of osseous developments, cannot be admitted as an epoch in life, or as having any important relation to other structural changes. We dispute, then, altogether, the right of M. Flourens to take it as an axiom, and, by applying his multiple of five, to make it tally with what is evident a foregone conclusion of his own as to the length of life. This conclusion is not logically attained, and is manifestly in contradiction to all experience.*

He appeals, however, to experience on behalf of his doctrine that one hundred years is the natural life of man; and that its curtailment below this normal term is the result of those errors and excesses in the manner of living which impair the organs and produce premature decay. And his argument here mainly lies in the citation of some of those cases in which life has been prolonged far beyond the average limit—instances often of exaggerated or doubtful kind, but yet numerous and authentic enough to be admitted as positive facts in the natural history of man. While justly sceptical as to the instances that go beyond our own experience, we cannot rightly dispute the statements coming to us from various sources, from different countries and periods of time, that human beings have occasionally reached, and now and then exceeded the extraordinary age of 150 years. In our own country, for example, though we may put aside as unproved the case of Henry Jenkins, alleged (chiefly, though not solely, on his memory of the battle of Flodden Field) to have lived 169 years; and regard with doubt that of the Countess of Desmond, whose age is recounted at 148; yet we cannot equally reject the evidence as to the 152 years of Thomas Parr's life, accredited as it is by the testimony of Harvey, who examined his body after death, and records the singular fact that the viscera were all sound; the cartilages of the ribs not ossified; and no obvious causes why he might not have lived yet longer, bnt for the surfeit of food, and changes in his habits of life, which followed his removal to London, and to the kitchens of the palace.*

Instances of this extraordinary kind indeed

*As well might we reason from the old Highland proverb which says,—

"Thrice the life of a dog is the life of a horse,
Thrice the life of a horse is the life of a man;
Thrice the life of a man is the life of a stag;
Thrice the life of a stag is the life of a crow."

The traditional longevity of the stag and the crow are still, we believe, unsolved problems; but there is nothing in the period of their respective growths to bring them within M. Flourens' theory.

*The post mortem examination of Parr was one of great care and minuteness. The statement of it by Harvey, and his narrative of other incidents in Parr's life, are exceedingly curious: and, thus attested, well deserving a place in human physiology.

are fully admitted by some of the most eminent physiologists; and Haller and Hufeland respectively, after citing several especial cases of life exceeding 150 years, affirm it as probable that the organization and vital forces of man may be capable in some cases of reaching 200 years of age. No proof, however, is given by them of such age having ever been attained; nor is there any record of it, except in one or two instances, so utterly without attestation that they must at once be discarded. We note one of them below, simply to show how loose is the evidence often received on these matters.† But we cannot refuse belief to a certain proportion of cases in those tables of longevity, which, comprising many thousand instances, must contain some average of truth, however difficult it may be to discriminate or define it. Dr. Van Oven, whose work is one of considerable ability and research, in tables which he has drawn up with great diligence, gives seventeen examples of age exceeding 150 years. In another of the volumes placed at the head of this article, the "Records of Longevity" by Mr. Bailey, we have a catalogue, alphabetically arranged, of three or four thousand cases of longevity verging closely upon, or exceeding, 100 years, and many of them reaching 150 years. Without seeking to impeach in the slightest degree the fidelity with which these tables are constructed, we cannot but feel the great want of all exact or sufficient evidence belonging to them. Still we are bound to admit some even of the extreme cases as authentic; and this of course presumes a constantly increasing proportion of others, which, though lower in the scale, do yet greatly transcend the average term of life. We shall have occasion afterwards to refer to these more especially. At present it is enough to state that we have sufficient proof of the frequent prolongation of life, to periods of from 110 to 130, or 140 years,—cases which, thus authenticated, we must necessarily take into view when dealing with this question of human longevity. But in so doing we are called upon to submit them all to the great general law of averages; and not to propound them, as M. Flourens does, as exponents of the natural capacity for life in man. We might just as reasonably assert that six feet is the natural stature, because some men have reached the stature of eight or even nine feet;—or, on the other hand, that four feet is the normal measure, because Count Benyowsky and the American Tom Thumb were dwarfed down below two and a half, or three feet;—or yet further affirm that fifteen stone is the natural weight of the species, because Daniel Lambert and some of his brethren in obesity have nearly doubled this weight. The fact is, that these anomalies, either by excess or deficiency, occur in every part of the physical structure of man, as in every part of the world of nature that surrounds us. The deviations thus permitted under the general laws which govern creation are, however, continually checked and controlled by those laws. They cannot pass certain limits without bringing into action fresh physical causes, tending to destroy the anomaly, and to restore that particular condition, which, as far as we can see, is specifically annexed to every organized object in the natural world.

A hundred years is not, and has never been, the natural or normal age of man. No deviations from a life of nature—no excesses of luxury, or labors and privations of poverty—will suffice to explain the disparity between the doctrine in question, and the facts as they stand in face of it. M. Flourens dwells with complacent detail on the old and familiar instance of Louis Cornaro, the Venetian self-reformer—a notable one, doubtless, if we may trust to its correctness in all particulars; but bearing marks of exaggeration, and at best but an individual case, where the argument needs a multitude. If seeking for any causes likely to affect and alter the term of life on a large scale, we should rather expect to find them in the extraordinary diversity of physical conditions to which mankind are exposed, and especially in those conditions which belong to the extremes of climate in different parts of the globe.

The records of ancient Egypt, Assyria, and Persia, though not expressing the fact to us in such positive forms, yet concur in furnishing the same general inference. The several periods of individual life are denoted as we now denote them; and generations succeed one another, as far as we can interpret the ancient monuments of the dead, under an equal and similar law. The pyramids were the tombs of monarchs, who, as an old writer says, "astonished heaven by their audacities," but whose term of existence would seem to have been strictly commensurate with our own.

As we descend to the days of Greece and Rome, the notices derived from history and other kindred sources become more explicit and particular. The result we may affirm to

† This case is derived from a parish register in Somersetshire, where the record appears of the "burial in Dec. 20, 1588, of Jane Britten, a maiden; as she affirmeth, at the age of 200."

be the same; testified to us both in the mean term of life as we have defined it, and not less remarkably in those deviations by excess, which in themselves furnish a sort of reflex proof as to the average—a manner of verifying the mean number more valuable than on first sight might appear. Though we still cannot authenticate particular facts in these periods with the same assurance as by the statistical tables of our own time, yet neither Greeks nor Romans were wanting in methods of assigning exact date, even to the events of private life, through the popular and political institutions which are so deeply imbedded in their history. The Olympiads and public festivals of Greece, and the Consular Fasti of Rome, gave time, as well as name, to numerous family and personal occurrences. The "*calidus juventa consule Planco*" of Horace is a familiar instance of the mode of dating events through this greatest and most lasting institution of the Roman State; and we know it to have been applied to that record of births which is essential to all evidence regarding longevity. We may refer, as an example of the completeness of some of these documents, to the account Pliny gives us of the Italian census instituted in the time of Vespasian; in which, to some extent at least, the classification by ages seems to have been conducted on the same plan as that we now follow. To this author we are indebted for much information on the subject of longevity; and the caution he applies to such instances as are presumably fabulous, or dependent on other modes of estimating years, is some security for the exactness of the cases which he admits without such suggestion. They are probably as authentic as the similar records of any modern people dating two or three centuries back.

Premising this, we may mention a few of the particular instances of longevity belonging to those times; and such especially as are associated with the eminent names of antiquity. The first case, indeed, that of Epimenides the Cretan (the subject of the famous example of the circulating syllogism), we must regard as very doubtful; the authorities for his alleged age of 167 being exceedingly slender. The Greek philosophers generally, however, of all sects and tenets, make fair show on the list; and under better evidence of authenticity. Zeno is stated to have lived 102 years; Democritus, 104; Pyrrho, 90; Diogenes, 90; Hippocrates, 99; Plato, 82; Isocrates, 98; Gorgias, the master of Isocrates, 107. But for the cup of hemlock, and the sword of the Roman soldier, the 70 years of Socrates, and the 75 years of Archimedes might well have reached the same high class of longevities. The old age of Sophocles, 90 years, is associated with the touching anecdote of his recitation of verses from the Œdipus Coloneus, in proof of his then sanity of mind. The lofty lyric genius of Pindar was not lost to his country until he had reached 84 years. Simonides wore his eligiac laurels to the age of 90.

We might go on to cite numerous instances of eminent longevity from the Roman annals; many of these on the authority of Cicero himself. But we will confine ourselves to a few cases of female longevity of less historical weight, but some of them curious in their details. Terentia, the wife of Cicero, lived to 103; Clodia, the wife of Ofilius, to 115 years. Two remarkable actresses stand on the list; one of whom, Lucceia, is stated to have performed as *Mima* for about 100 years; the other, Galeria, was brought back to the stage, during games celebrated in honor of Augustus, in her 104th year, and 91 years after her first appearance before the Roman public. Pliny affords us a similar instance from the other sex, that of the dancer Stephanio (*qui primus togatas saltare instituit*), who, having danced at the secular games of Augustus, performed again at those of Claudius, 63 years later, and lived still some time afterwards.

The census, already mentioned as instituted by Vespasian, furnishes some results as to longevity singular enough to suggest doubts of their entire accuracy. The instances given by Pliny are taken exclusively frem the region between the Appenines and the Po; and upon the record of this census (which he himself calls *res confessa*) he enumerates 54 persons who had reached the age of 100,—14 of 110 years,—2 of 125,—4 of 130,—4 of 135,—and 3 of 140 years. In the single town of Valciatum, near Placentia, he mentions 6 persons of 110; 4 of 120; 1 of 150 years. These round numbers are somewhat suspicious as to the reality of the ages in question; and the whole statement, derived from a district by no means noted for its salubrity, is so much in excess of any similar record in other countries, that we cannot but hesitate in admitting it. If true, it can only be solved by supposing a remarkable aggregation of cases of hereditary family longevity, through intermarriages in the same province. Nor can we draw from these, or other memorials of ancient longevity, any argument for believing that the mean duration

of human life was ever above that which belongs to the period in which we now live.

Without referring to those several divisions into races, which historians or physiologists have adopted, we may at once take the extreme instances of the Negro and the people of Northern and Central Europe, as including all intermediate cases. And here again, as in the question regarding the comparative longevity at different periods of time, we are led to the conclusion of that general parity, which the conditions just noted might lead us to expect. We cannot, indeed, go for facts to the parish registers of Bornou, or to the Statistical Society of Soudan; but from the registries of our West Indian Islands, and from the decennial census of the United States, we obtain information bearing closely on the question before us. We must not say *deciding* it; since the results, if not ambiguous, would show a very singular superiority in length of Negro life over that of European origin. In 1840, for instance, when the population of the United States was about 17 millions, of which 2½ millions in round numbers were negroes, the census gave 791 as the number of *whites* above 100; while of *slaves* the number of those above 100 is registered as 1333, of *free negroes* as 647. In 1855, we find from the census that 43 persons died in the U. States above 100; the oldest white male at 110, the oldest white female 109; the oldest negro man 130, the oldest negro woman 120, both slaves. From Professor Tucker's analysis of the American census from 1790 to 1840, published a year ago, we derive the strange result, if true, that the chances of living above 100 are 13 times as great among the slaves, and 40 times as great in the free negroes, as in the white population of the country.

These results, however, as we have just hinted, are too anomalous to be readily accepted. Not half a century has yet elapsed since the importation of slaves from Africa was prohibited by law; and we may therefore safely presume that most of those whose *alleged ages* exceed 100, were of African birth; a circumstance which bars *in limine* all certain conclusions on the subject. Even with respect to those born in the States, there is much likelihood of faulty registration, added to by the frequent transference of slaves from one estate to another. And yet further, we have to consider here the habits of the negroes themselves, their curious inaccuracy as to all matters of numbers, and their proneness to exaggeration, especially when by applying this to age, they may hope to obtain some interest in their fate or mitigation of their labors.

We have already spoken of the excellence of our recent English registration, as attested by the volumes annually published. Though they afford us no present cases of longevity equivalent to those of Jenkins and Parr, they indicate a medium duration of life, and a proportion of lives above 100, at least equal to what exists in any other country. Taking two recent years as a brief illustration, we find in 1852, when the population of England and Wales was 18 millions, there died 35 males above 100 years of age, the oldest 105,—and 53 females, of whom three reached one 106, one 107, and two 108 years. In the following year, the register tells us of the deaths of 31 males, and 62 females, above 100,—the oldest male 109, the oldest female 110 years. We may add that in England it is probable that the low rate of medium annual mortality—not exceeding 2¼ per cent., and much below that of most of the European nations—expresses causes which must have some effect in multiplying the cases of great age. As we have already said, the influence of these causes is limited by various considerations; but we cannot reasonably exclude it; or deny that there may exist from this source certain mean differences of longevity in the several races and nations of mankind, as with respect to stature, and other marked features of bodily conformation.

It is impossible to particularize the many causes which affect the health and life of man in various localities; but the subject of longevity in families connects itself with one of the most curious questions in human physiology—that of the hereditary transmission of physical qualities and peculiarities from parents to offspring. Every one is familiar with this fact in the case of other animals, especially in those domesticated by man, and made more useful to him in the varieties thus produced. We cannot affirm that the capacity for change, by such hereditary transmission, is as great in man himself; for, except in the instance of the gigantic grenadiers of the King of Prussia, and possibly in the usages of some savage tribes, we are not aware of any attempt having ever been distinctly made to test this capacity. But in one form or other the fact is familiar to the observation of all; subject, indeed, to the anomalies which beset every part of this great mystery; yet exhibited in such numberless ways, on mind as well as body, as to show its mighty influence on the destinies of

man. The most minute peculiarities of external features, as well as the grosser conditions of stature and bulk, are capable of being thus transmitted; and we cannot doubt, upon pathological observation, that the internal organs also—possibly even that wonderful fluid which circulates through and ministers to all of them—are subject to the same influence, derived from one generation to another. The bearing of this influence on the formation of national diversities of feature and character, is a most curious collateral topic, but it would here be out of place.

Descending from families to individuals—the last step in the scale we have thus been rapidly following—we find the contingencies which affect longevity to multiply largely, and become more obvious than when concealed under the averages of large numbers. One important classification, however, here suggests itself, viz., that of the sexes: though it would be difficult to prove it absolutely, we consider the strong presumption to be, that the natural term of life is the same in man and woman. It must be admitted, indeed, that our own census, in common with that of many other civilized communities, shows a considerably larger proportion of females than of males attaining 100 years. But we believe the fact to be of ready explanation, without recurring to any recondite causes. Woman drops more easily than man into the passive existence of advanced age. The pursuits, pleasures, and passions of her antecedent life are for the most part of more tranquil kind, and do not so strongly contrast with the inert seclusion of later years. The expression of a French writer, "*Peu de gens savent etre vieux*," has much closer application to one sex than the other. The incidents of child-bearing might seem to lie on the other side. But these belong to, and affect, an earlier period of life; and can hardly be considered as equal in influence to the external casualties which more especially beset man, even to the extremity of age. We may further remark that the cases of extraordinary longevity, which we have denoted as a sort of index to the average, are found to give a general equality of result for the two sexes.

Curiosity may also be directed to the question how the learned professions stand as to relative longevity? In such an inquiry it is obvious that individual cases go very little way towards its solution. With respect to the profession of Law, we have no connected evidence sufficient to warrant a general conclusion, though many particular instances of great judges readily suggest themselves, who have continued to render eminent public services through a long term of age. The Insurance offices, until recently at least, gave more distinct results as to the value of clerical life in England. The clergy, in fact, form their best description of insurances; affording an average of life considerably beyond that of any other class. We have much reason, however, to doubt whether the hard-worked clergyman of the present day will maintain this average for the future. The medical profession, both in England and elsewhere, comes much lower in the scale of longevity. No material for satire can be drawn from this fact. The hard labors, broken rest, and anxious responsibilities of medical men, and their much greater exposure to infection and other causes of disease, well explain that whilst they are prolonging the lives of others they are shortening their own.

The longevity of statesmen and of men of letters offers other curious topics of inquiry; but of still greater difficulty, from the more doubtful definition of these classes. Here, again, we must reject the evidence of particular cases, as not leading to any certain conclusion. We read of Henry Dandolo reaching the age of 97;* Cardinal Fleury, 90; Bolingbroke, 79; Alberoni, 80; Pombal, 83 years. In our own times we are familiar with the venerable aspect and antique manners of Talleyrand, Metternich, and Nesselrode—statesmen who have played so various a part amid the changes of dynasties and the conflicts of empires. And, again, among the greatest men of our own country, less exposed indeed to revolutionary storms, we find the names of many who, happily for this nation, have continued the eminent labors and services of earlier life into a prolonged age of honor and usefulness. Of the Duke of Wellington it was truly said on the morrow of his death, that he had exhausted nature as he had exhausted glory; and to the same illustrious generation belong the names of Lyndhurst, Brougham, and Lansdowne,—all still maintaining, under what is weight of years alone, the vigor, eloquence and ability which have marked every stage of their career. But, after all, such instances interpret only individualities of temperament, and afford no answer to the general

* "But," says Gibbon in recording the fact, "this *extraordinary* longevity is not observed by the original writers, nor does there exist another example of a hero near one hundred years of age. Theophrastus might afford an instance of a writer of ninety-nine. It is scarcely possible that the powers of the mind and body should support themselves to such a period of life."—*Decline and Fall*, cap. LX.

question. The same is true in the case of literary and scientific men. We might quote the examples of Hobbes, Voltaire, Fontenelle, Heyne, Goethe, Newton, Kepler, Halley, Cassini, Maria-Agnesi, and others all reaching ages between 80 and 100; or the living fame of Humboldt, still eminent, at 87, in every great faculty of mind; but we can venture no general affirmation grounded upon such instances.

The simple but certain fact presents itself in the outset, that the healthiness of the organs ministering to the several functions of life constitutes the health of the man, and in the same proportion tends to prolong his age. Though physiologists hold some verbal dispute on this point, yet can we hardly define vitality otherwise than as a force or power, acting through organic structures, and depending upon the integrity of these for its own amount and completeness. While admitting that the power is one which controls, and often seemingly contradicts, the physical laws most familiar to us—that it holds in abeyance, for example, the chemical tendencies of the matter in which it subsists—still we see that matter and organization are necessary to its action, and that by these it is variously and unceasingly altered through every part of individual existence.

On the value to health of the purity of the air we breathe, it is hardly necessary to speak. Free ventilation is here the main agent in our hands, whether we look to the replacement of air despoiled of its oxygen, or to the removal of noxious matters present in it. Our actual knowledge, it must be admitted, does not enable us to exclude altogether those noxious ingredients—some of them doubtless animal or vegetable organisms—which produce epidemic or endemic diseases. Nor can we yet deal with those equally unknown influences on the body, for good as well as for ill, which depend on electrical states of atmosphere, the formation of ozone, &c. But science is now actively directed to these various objects; and meanwhile we may fairly assume change and freedom of air by ventilation, as the most efficient preventive means in our power.

It has been a question mooted of old, and often revived, whether intemperance in food, or in drinks, is most injurious to health and life. An eminent physician of antiquity, Celsus, pronounces against the former; and if the question be so put as to exclude the wilder forms of inebriety, we may perhaps acquiesce in this opinion. There is some risk, however, in discussing a matter of preference, where both contingencies are so prolific of evil. It is not uncommon to hear instances cited of prolonged life in drunkards, and doubtless such do occur. But they are as certainly exceptional; and fairly subject in each case to the common and obvious explanation, that life would have been longer extended had the habit been otherwise. The drunkard who dies at 70, might well have reached 80, if sober.

But while thus associating moderation of life with length of life, we are bound to add there may be excess even in this laudable direction. A constant and anxious care for existence, and rigid rules of living founded upon this, tend in their own way to curtail what it is sought to prolong. There is some practical truth in the story in the Spectator, of the gentleman who cut short his life by weighing or measuring every article of his food.

A story is current of Lord Mansfield, who himself lived to eighty-nine, that whenever very aged witnesses appeared in the Court over which he so long presided, it was his wont to interrogate them as to their habits of life; and with the result that in no one habit was there any general concurrence, except in that of *early rising*. Anecdotes of this kind are for the most part either untrue or exaggerated in degree. Early rising is doubtless in many ways favorable to health; but it cannot be taken as a guarantee for longevity. Even were the story in question true, it is more probable that the vigorous vitality in these instances maintained the habit, than that the habit maintained the vitality.

The doctrine of Cicero is that the faculties of the mind in old age are best maintained by their exercise. "*Manent ingenia senibus, modo permaneant studium et industria.*" In this doctrine, and on the same grounds just asserted as to the preservation of the bodily powers, we are disposed fully to acquiesce. Every intellectual faculty is dulled and diminished by want of use,—each one is maintained in vigor, if not improved, by its fitting and temperate employment. This maxim, true generally to every time of life, requires no other modification for old age, than the simple one of additional care that there be no habitual excess. Vitality is weakened or exhausted by intemperance of mind as well as of body; and in old age is less easily repaired. The brain, that organ which comes in such close and mysterious relation to the mental functions, more especially needs this forbearance in advanced life. At this period it readily becomes the

subject of disordered action or disease, from any excess of use, even of the intellectual powers,—yet much more, from any intemperance or disorder of the moral emotions. Quietude and forbearance form the right rule in our hands—not premature disuse and abandonment of the faculties committed to us; which beyond doubt are better preserved by their exercise within the limits we have denoted.

We cannot close this article without briefly adverting to that question, which at every period has been so variously agitated,—whether longevity is desirable or not. A momentous inquiry, indeed, if it really admitted of any determinate answer. But none such can be given. The conditions are far too numerous and complex to warrant any general conclusions; and even in individual cases, and with direct appeal to those concerned in the question, the difficulties are hardly overcome. The feelings of one moment change at the next. Even where their expression can be implicitly relied upon, longevity itself is a vague term; and rendered more so by the various contingencies of health and power preserved, which alone can give just measure of life, or of the capacity to enjoy it. The old man of 80, and he of 100, may be on a par as to those conditions upon which we found our only valid estimate for each.

Though we are unable, with Montaigne, to say of his treatise "De Senectute," "*il donne l'appetit de vieilliro*' we can well admire the fervor with which he maintains his thesis, and the happy ingenuity of his argument. Nor can we grudge him his eloquent abstraction of what old age *might* be; while admitting that, however rare and difficult their full attainment, the objects and methods he indicates are all fitted to give honor, tranquility, and usefulness to the latter stages of life. Add to these the religious confidence and consolation, which Cicero could only vaguely, if at all, proffer, and we have a summary of all that is in man's power towards the attainment of that great end, a happy and venerated old age.—*Edin. Rev.*

Circumstantial Evidence. — Many years ago, in one of the lower Mississippi towns, a young man of respectable connections was tried for the murder of a fellow boarder, with whom he had been last seen in company near the spot where his supposed victim was discovered. Through all the trial he protested his innocence, without avail. At the scaffold his conduct was frightful. He rushed wildly among the multitude, screaming out for pity upon one unjustly condemned. But public opinion was against him. He was a stranger and poor. So the sheriff seized and dragged him, amidst piercing shrieks, to the fatal noose. A few months after, the hotel keeper confessed the murder—confessed too that he had directed suspicion upon Boyington, in order to cover his own crime.

In Vermont, Stephen and Jesse Bourne were tried and convicted for the murder of Russell Colvin, at Manchester. They were sentenced, with the general approbation of the community, upon such circumstantial evidence as generally brings its victim to the gallows. Just thirty-seven days before the day of execution, the murdered man returned; he had merely wandered away in a fit of insanity. But the singularity of their case consisted in the fact that one, if not both, confessed the murder! They had been urged by officious visitors, so incessantly, that their minds became diseased, and they really thought themselves guilty of the horrible crime charged.

CRIMINAL ABORTIONS.

At the February meeting of the Suffolk District Medical Society, in Boston, a Committee was appointed "to consider whether any further legislation is necessary, in this Commonwealth, on the subject of Criminal Abortion; and to report to the Society such other means as may seem necessary for the suppression of this abominable, unnatural, and yet common crime."

In accordance with their instructions, the accompanying report was submitted by the Committee at the April meeting, and ordered to be printed.

REPORT.

The Committee on CRIMINAL ABORTION have attended to the duty assigned them, and would respectfully submit the following report:—

The frequency of Criminal Abortion in this Commonwealth, though already notorious, is much greater than generally supposed; and it is probably steadily increasing. It is confined to no class of persons, — neither the poor, the ignorant, nor the unmarried. Indeed, among the married the crime seem seven more common than among those who have the excuse of shame.

These statements might be doubted by gentlemen who, for whatever reason, do not happen to be *personally* familiar with the fact. They are nevertheless strictly true. Statistics of abortion do not exist; and, for evident reasons, reliable ones cannot be obtained. The instances of its occurrence, even when accidental, in advanced pregnancy, are but seldom reported to the proper authorities, who acknowledge that many of the so-called still-births are in consequence of induced abortion. "Undoubtedly more than a hundred such yearly escape being recorded (in Boston), a large proportion of which no doubt result from criminal abortion." (Extract from letter of City Registrar, Mr. Apollonio, to the Committee, March 26, 1857.)

Common as the crime may be in an advanced stage, after the existence of pregnancy has been made certain by its more evident signs, it is infinitely more common in the early months before motion has occurred, when so many ignorantly believe that the child has therefore not yet received life.

It is impossible for the Committee to furnish statistics in this matter; but lest their premises should be denied, and as the experience of a single individual, it may be remarked, that in no less than *fifteen* instances during the past half-year has the Chairman been called on to treat the confessed results, near or remote, of criminal abortion; and, of these patients, all without exception were married and respectable women. This very prevalence of the crime, which has hitherto obtained to an equal extent only in barbarous or heathen nations, is found almost to protect it. It escapes punishment by law. Many cases, in proof of this, might be instanced from the records of our courts; the three given in the City Registrar's report, just published, for the past year (p. 18), will, however, suffice. It has found public and unblushing defenders, who have so blunted the moral and religious sense of the people, that many respectable women do not hesitate to avow their belief that abortion is no crime.

The impunity with which the crime is committed is mainly owing to four different and separate causes:—

1st, The present *morale* of the community in reference to the subject;

2d, The great caution generally observed by the perpetrators of the crime;

3d, The fact that both operator, where such has been employed, and patient, are extremely desirous of concealment, and so can seldom be produced as witnesses; and

4th, The defective character of the law itself.

To check this evil, a change must be effected in public opinion. By whom shall this change be begun? There is no use in longer silence, or in attempting to conceal what is but too evident. It has clearly become the duty of the medical profession, as the guardians of the public health, if for no higher reason, and as those who, of all others, sooner or later in almost every instance become cognizant of the crime, to declare its true nature, its prevalence, and its deplorable consequences; to denounce it in unmeasured terms, and, where possible, to point out and to enforce efficient means for its suppression.

The ways in which the popular ignorance respecting its actual guilt, its immediate dangers to the mother, and its effects on subsequent health, can best be enlightened, are self-evident. In private, among his families; in public, from his professor's desk, from the pages of his journal, or from the witness-stand,—the physician is called upon, by every dictate of humanity and religion, to condemn it.

It will be the purpose, therefore, of the Committee at this time to point to what extent the profession can control the crime through the laws. They may perhaps hereafter take occasion to consider it in some other of its relations to medical men.

Statutes on abortion should be stringent, and faithfully enforced. They should not only punish, but prevent. They should be simple, easily understood, and not to be evaded.

The statues of Massachusetts are the following:—

SECTION I. LAWS OF 1845. CHAP. 27.

"Whoever maliciously, or without lawful justification, with intent to cause and procure the miscarriage of a woman, then pregnant with child, shall administer to her, prescribe for her, or advise or direct her to take or swallow any poison, drug, or medicine, or noxious thing; or shall cause or procure her, with like intent, to take or swallow any poison, drug, or medicine, or noxious thing;—and whoever maliciously, and without lawful justification, shall use any instrument or means whatever, with the like intent; and any person, with the like intent, knowingly aiding and assisting such offender or offenders,—shall be deemed guilty of felony, if the woman die in consequence thereof, and shall be imprisoned not more than twenty years, nor less than five years, in the

State Prison. And, if the woman doth not die in consequence thereof, such offender shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding seven years, nor less than one year, in the State Prison, or House of Correction, or Common Jail, and by a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars."

SECTION II. LAWS OF 1847. CHAP. 83.

"Every person who shall knowingly advertise, print, publish, distribute, or circulate, or knowingly cause to be advertised, printed, published, distributed, or circulated, any pamphlet, printed paper, book, newspaper, notice, advertisement, or reference, containing words or language giving or conveying any notice, hint, or reference, to any person, or to the name of any person, real or ficitious, from whom, or to any place, house, shop, or office where any poison, drug, mixture, preparation, medicine, or noxious thing, or any instrument or means whatever, or any advice, directions, information, or knowledge, may be obtained, for the purpose of causing or procuring the miscarriage of any woman pregnant with child, shall be punished by imprisonment in the State Prison, House of Correction, or Common Jail, not more than three years, or by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars."

The above statues might perhaps seem sufficiently simple and comprehensive; but it will be found that the first of them contains three separate clauses that are not only unnecessary, but that directly tend to prevent the enforcement of the law itself; and it is very likely owing to this fact, as indeed seems proved by similar results in other states and countries where a similar law exists, that so few convictions, so few indictments even, are secured among us.

The objectionable clauses are the following; those rendering it necessary for the Commonwealth to prove, —

1st, The existence of malice or want of lawful justification;

2d, The existence of pregnancy; and

3d, That the agent administered was a "poison, drug, or medicine, or noxious thing."

There can be no possible excuse for the induction of abortion, either in the early or later months of pregnancy, except to save the life of the mother, or of the fœtus within her womb; and so should the law premise. This necessity can be determined only by experienced physicians; and, in so grave a question, the decision should never be allowed to rest on a single opinion. "The punishment of a crime," it has well been said, "cannot be just, if the laws have not endeavored to prevent that crime by the best means which times and circumstances would allow." In the case in point, by thus clearly defining the crime, greater bars would be put to its commission, and the chances of evading its punishment would be proportionally lessened. It would no longer be necessary for the prosecution to prove malice, or want of justification; for this the law would hold to be evident from the very fact of the attempt.

There could be no injustice to the prisoner, that the burden of proving intent should thus be made to fall upon him. Government, of course, must prove the deed,—in these cases, frequently no easy thing to accomplish; and then should the prisoner be made to show its necessity. If the accused were a medical man, and had held the previous consultation with a brother-practitioner, always proper in cases thus involving life, he would have no difficulty in proving that necessity, if it really had existence.

To require proof of pregnancy from the prosecution is equally needless and absurd. In the early months, this is often impossible to ascertain, where existing; still more so to prove, that, having been terminated, it previously did exist. Pregnancy should be taken for granted, from the very attempt at abortion.

Moreover, deaths have occurred from attempts at abortion, where there was no pregnancy. In these, by our statutes, there could be no punishment, save at common law. Such cases, where pregnancy is proved not to have existed, of course ought not to be called child-murder; yet, so far as the woman's safety and the moral guilt of the accused are concerned, they are, and should be punished as, attempts at miscarriage. The history of the case and the accessory circumstances would always show, where the accused was a physician, whether the operation in question was a legitimate one, as for polypus, retained menses, &c., &c., or not; or, if the means used were medicinal only, whether the case were one of simple amenorrhœa; and, by any but an educated physician, any such operation or manipulation or course of drugging is, and should be considered, alike unjustifiable, and as premising an evil intent.

It should not be necessary, in the third place, to bring proof that the efficient agent, where one had been given by mouth or rectum, was a poison, drug, or medicine, or noxious thing. Many substances, at other times innocuous, have been found, under the influence of mental excitement, to produce abortion. Much

the same reasoning will apply to this clause as to the preceding. If the accused were a physician, he would be able, of course, to furnish good reason for any prescription, did such reason actually exist; and the accessory circumstances in such cases, if he were innocent, would always be in his favor.

The punishment of criminal abortion, by the present statute, is, in cases where the mother does not happen to lose her life, wholly disproportioned to the enormity of the crime. The law is predicated on an entirely erroneous idea. The real intent is seldom against the life of the mother; in almost every instance, she is herself, not merely an accessory, but one of the principals—in what? Not an attempt at the murder of herself,—for that would be simply absurd,—but the murder of her child.

The law is here fundamentally wrong. It utterly ignores the existence of the living child, though the child is really alive from the very moment of its conception, and from that very moment is, and should be considered, a distinct being; this the law does not, however, recognize. The fœtus is not, as has so often been alleged, merely *pars viscerum matris:* though upon such belief our law is evidently based.

"It would be hard," writes an eminent lawyer of this city to the Committee, "to find in the moral law the distinction made in the civil law between causing the death of a child before and immediately after its birth. Before the birth, though the civil law recognizes the existence of the child for some purposes, still, so far as personal injury is concerned, its being is engrossed, so to speak, in the mother."

The argument that the perils and dangers to which the fœtus is naturally subjected during its intra-uterine life should lessen the criminality of attempts at its destruction, is unworthy the profession, and should not be allowed in law. Those perils do not exceed, if indeed they equal, those which threaten the new-born child. Yet these last would hardly be allowed to invalidate a charge of infanticide.

The crime, when a living fœtus has been destroyed, is clearly MURDER. But, as there are those who will not allow that it should be punished as such, it should in all cases, whether the mother lives or not, be regarded as at least FELONY by the law, which now, in most cases, declares it but a simple MISDEMEANOR. In cases where both lives are lost, its punishment should be proportionally increased. If wilful intent against the life of the mother thus destroyed could ever be proved, the indictment should then be for murder.

An article of the penal code of France, as drawn by Napoleon, provides an increase of punishment where criminal abortion shall have been induced or advised by physicians, surgeons, or other officers of health, or by druggists. We may well imitate this example. If we but determine that the crime must be checked, how great seems the guilt of those who use, to destroy life, that knowledge by which they are pledged to preserve it.

By our statutes, as at present standing, the mother can hardly be reached for her part in the crime. This should no longer be. Unless proved insane, the wretch who had caused the death of her offspring, perhaps by her own hand, should be made to suffer corresponding exposure and punishment. If married, as is too often the case, her crime should be considered as infinitely increased.

Much of the public indifference and error on the subject of criminal abortion is owing to the influence of certain misguided or brutal men, who, by their publications or lectures, have given rise to a belief that the induction of abortion is alike the prerogative and duty of the married. Such offenders, whose guilt should be measured by their numberless victims, are at present beyond the reach of the law; but, as evident criminals, they should be punished. The community should be made to understand and to feel, that marriage, where the parties shrink from its highest responsibilities, is nothing less than legalized prostitution.

Too much zeal cannot be shown by the medical profession in relieving themselves from the weight of responsibility they may incur by innocently causing the increase of criminal abortion. The resort to craniotomy, where, in some cases at least, the child's life might by other means be saved; the frequent repetition of that operation, or of the premature induction of labor before the seventh month, in the same patient, in accordance with the rule, almost universally acknowledged, but still often WRONG, that the child's life is as nothing in comparison with that of its mother; the neglect of attempts at resuscitating still-born children, especially where, as the phrase goes, "it is a mercy" if the child were born dead; the fear sometimes shown by medical men to denounce the crime in fitting terms to patients who have confided to them their sin; the occasional carelessness in treatment and mistakes in diagnosis, where proper attention and examination would have shown unmistakable signs of pregnancy;

the relying upon a single and unaided opinion, in cases where not one life only, but two, may be involved,—are all instances of apparent disregard of fœtal life, that serve with the community as incentives to abortion. Much might be said on each of these points, and on still others; but the Committee are prevented from considering them, at this moment, from the already great length of their report.

The responsibilities, fearful indeed, that rest upon the medical profession, demand that they should possess, should acknowledge, and should govern themselves by, a code of ethics on these great obstetrical questions; in comparison with which all the little matters of professional courtesy, of parliamentary forms and usage, and of ordinary medical police, that usually engross their public action, are as nothing. The subject is beset with many difficulties; but their removal is only a question of time.

Whatever the duties of the physician, there can be no doubt concerning those of the CORONER, before whom many of the cases of alleged abortion must originally come. He should be, in these cases of all others, a medical man, and should boldly investigate, bring to trial, and press to conviction.

And it is surely the duty of this Committee to urge upon the profession, not of physic alone, but also of law, a more general acquaintance with the true principles and with the details of Obstetric Jurisprudence; through ignorance of which, on the part of attorney, medical witness, or judge, not a few perfectly clear cases of criminal abortion have fallen to the ground.

It is not so much the severity as the certainty of the punishment that will prevent the crime.

WESTERN HOMŒOPATHIC COLLEGE, CLEVELAND, OHIO.

President Wheeler addressed a few words of advice to those about to receive degrees, as to their future course and conduct in practising their profession. The names of the graduates were announced by Prof. Ellis, and the degree of M. D. conferred, and the diplomas given them by the President.

Prof. Gatchell then addressed the audience on the principles and peculiar merits of Homœopathy. The time of course compelled him to be brief, and he stated only main points. Homœopathy was introduced but fifty years ago by Dr. Hahnemann of Leipsic, and its practice had even now extended over a large portion of Europe as well as America. He experimented upon his own body to ascertain the qualities of the different articles of *Materia Medica*. The practice of the principle for fifty years had proved its efficacy. Homœopathic medicine exhausted itself upon the particular disease it was given for, while Allopathic affected the whole system. Minute and accurately kept records in various hospitals in the large cities of Europe as well as America, had shown that the difference between the mortality under the different systems was largely in favor of the Homœopathic, sometimes as 30 to 5 per cent. He cited examples in yellow fever, typhus fever, scarlet fever, and other virulent diseases. Fortunately for Homœopathy, the evidence of its merits came from its opponents, and was therefore the more convincing. The lecturer read extracts from two or three Allopathic authors to show the faults of their own system—that they had no thorough knowledge of the curative qualities of the various articles of *Materia Medica*, and that in the treatment of diseases they used medicine without knowing exactly what it would do, and if it did not effect its object, they administered something else till the patient died, or got well, as the case might be. The Homœopathist he compared to a huntsman who with a rifle aimed at a single bird, and the Allopathist to one who with an old shot gun let fly at all the birds in the field at once, without having any definite idea which he would hit, or whether he would hit any at all.

He paid great respect to the eminent men of the other practice, and awarded them the highest praise for the service they had done the world in bringing to their present high state of perfection various departments of the science, and only differed from them in the one question of how to cure. We have not followed in order the remarks of the Professor, but given merely the main items. They were listened to with manifest interest and pleasure by the audience. The Professor closed, on behalf of the Faculty, by an address to the graduates. He set forth the difficulties of their profession, its labors in sunshine and storm, its great usefulness, and its comparatively small reward. One of the class was a woman,—he thought it eminently fit that women should minister to the sick, it was in unison with their mission. He exhorted the men, when they met the other sex in practice, to treat them with the same respect they would treat their own. It was a profession in which

woman could become eminent, as living instances proved. His words of general advice, and tenderly expressed words of farewell, terminated his address.

The names of the graduating class are as follows: —

Fulton Baker, Isaac H. Lewis, J. O. M. Cratsle, T. C. Kiger, A. L. Avery, Lewis Springer, S. C. Watson, N. R. Seeley, E. Penfield, William Rowley, Thomas Hewit, Peter B. Hoyt, R. S. Sanderson, Palmer Covill, Levi H. Fenner, James F. Johnson, E. R. Ellis, D. C. Van Renssalaer, Thomas B. Hancock, S. H. Guilbert, Clement Pearson, U. R. Patchin, T. P. Wilson, James S. Beach, F. B. Gardner, Philo L. Hatch, J. W. Sawin, Mrs. Ann L. Avery. — *North Amer. Jour. Homœop.*

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The Annual Meeting of the Councillors will be held at City Hall, New Bedford, on Tuesday evening, June 2d, at 8 o'clock.

Other stated meetings of the Councillors will be held at 12 Temple Pl., Boston, October 7th, 1857, and February 3d, 1858, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Censors of the Suffolk District (officia-ing for the Society at large), will meet at Dr. Wm. E. Coale's, 4 Staniford St., Boston, Thursday, May 28, 1857; Wednesday, January 27, 1858; and Wednesday, July 28, 1858, at 4 o'clock, P. M.

The Censors of the other Medical Districts will meet at the same place and on the same day as the District Societies themselves.

Graduates in Medicine at Harvard University or at the Berkshire Medical Institution, may become Fellows by signing the By-laws of the Society in custody of the Recording Secretary, or of the Secretary of any one of the Disdrict Societies. Other candidates should ap tly for admission to the Censors at the times of their stated meetings above mentioned.— (See By-laws I. and II.)

The Society's Publications, as soon as issued, will be sent by the Librarian, by mail, to all members who have paid their assessments.— Due notice of removals should be given to the Librarian, to prevent misdirection.

(Dr. J. B. Alley, Librarian, resides at 35 Boylston street, Boston.)

The Annual Meeting of the Society will be held at Liberty Hall, Purchase street, New Bedford,* on the first Wednesday, the 3d day of June, 1857, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

1. Ordinary Business.
2. Reports of Special Committees.
3. Medical Papers and Communications.
4. Report of the Prize Committee.
5. The Annual Discourse, at 1 o'clock precisely, by Marshall S. Perry, M. D., of Boston.

Dinner at 2 1-2 o'clock.*

Luther V. Bell, M. D., of Charlestown, will preside at the Dinner as Anniversary Chairman.

Committee of Arrangements.—Drs. Wm. A. Gordon, Lyman Bartlett and John H. Mackie, of New Bedford; Dr. Wm. J. Dale, of Boston.

Tickets for the Dinner may be had, at New Bedford, of the Committee of Arrangements or of the Treasurer, on presenting a receipt of payment of assessments.

Assessments may be paid to the Treasurer of the Society, or to the Treasurers of District Societies, any time previous to the annual meeting, or to the Treasurer of the Society at the time and place of the annual meeting.

(Residence of Dr. A. A. Gould, Treasurer, is 31 Boylston St., Boston.)

B. E. Cotting, Rec. Sec'y.

Roxbury, May 1, 1857.

MASSACHUSETTS HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The Massachusetts Homœopathic Medical Society celebrated their first anniversary under the act of incorporation, June 6th, obtained from the last legislature, and the exercises throughout were of a deeply interesting and gratifying character. In the afternoon the regular business meeting was held at Mercantile Hall, the president, Dr. Samuel Gregg, in the chair, and Dr. David Thayer acting as Secretary. Dr. Benjamin H. West read several letters from different parts of the state showing the practice of homeopathy to be in a most flourishing condition.

Dr. Thayer read the report of the executive committee, relative to a diploma which the Society is about to issue.

* Cars leave Boston (Providence R. R. Station,) for New Bedford, at 7.15, 11, A. M., and 4.30 P. M. There will be a special train from New Bedford to Boston at 7.15, P. M., after the Dinner. Fare each way, $1.65.

The following gentlemen having been recommended as suitable candidates by the censors, were voted in by ballot as members of the Society :—Charles Bailey, Daniel Holt, G. Felix Matthes, H. L. H. Hoffendahl, Stanislas Hernisz, William A. Gardner, F. N. Palmer, Ira E. Chase, Charles Walker, and Charles H. Farnsworth.

President—Wm. Wesnlhoeft, of Boston.

Vice Presidents—George Russel, of Boston ; C. F. Weld, of Jamaica Plain.

Corresponding Secretary—Daniel Holt, of Lowell.

Recording Secretary—David Thayer, of Boston.

Librarian—L. McFarland, of Boston.

Censors—Milton Fuller, B. H. West, L. M. Barker, J. C. Neilson, O. L. Sanders, all of Boston.

The meeting then adjourned, the members proceeding immediately to the Parker House. Addresses were made by Hon. Chas. A. Phelps, speaker of the House of Representatives ; Judge Russell, who confessed ignorance as to by what right he could be there, believing that in his official capacity he had never been accused of administering justice in homeopathic doses ; Mayor Rice, Prof. Warner, of Amherst College, Dr. Winslow Lewis, Ephraim Wright, Esq., and James A. Dix, Esq., editor of the Boston Journal.

At the conclusion of the festivities, the Association with their guests returned to Mercantile Hall,and listened to a very instructive discourse upon homœopathy, by Hon. B. H. West, M. D.

EXTRA UTERINE FŒTATION.

BY THOS. CHRISTIE, M. D., LACHUTE.

In compliance with your request, I now furnish you with a brief statement of the facts relating to the fœtal bones which I left in your possession to be placed in the Museum of McGill College.

In the spring of 1853 I was called to see Mrs. R., aged twenty-two, lately married. She had been obstructed two periods, and complained of nausea, vomiting, and occasionally of pain in the lower part of the abdomen; in short, of symptoms characteristic of the early stage of pregnancy. About this time the family removed to the vicinity of Montreal, and I lost sight of the case, until late in the summer 1855, when she returned to the country, and her husband called to consult me about her health, from whom I learned the following particulars :—

From the time of my first visit she suffered a good deal from pain and vomiting, till pregnancy appeared to advance favorably. The abdomen enlarged and the movements of the child were distinctly felt, up to the time when she thought the time of gestation was completed. She was then seized with feeble labor pains and vomiting, which continued for several days, but gradually wore off. From this time the movements of the child ceased. The abdomen slightly diminished in size, and her general health became very much impaired. She consulted several physicians, but derived no benefit from the treatment.

Nearly fifteen months after the completion of the supposed period of gestation, she was again seized with pain in the abdomen, and vomiting, followed by a discharge from the rectum of fœtal bones and putrid blood. Similar discharges took place at intervals for several months, all per annum. She experienced the most excruciating pain on these occasions.

He showed me the frontal and temporal bones of a full-grown fœtus, which she had voided a few days previously. The bones were in a perfect state of preservation, and partially covered with a crystalline deposit. I did not test the nature of the crystal, being desirous to send you the bones intact.

I stated to Mrs. R. that I thought her case required no interference ; that, in all probability, nature would soon accomplish what she had begun. This termination was nearer than I at that time anticipated. The bones which he had just exhibited proved to be the last. She recovered rapidly, and now enjoys good health.

This case illustrates in a very striking manner the power of nature in relieving herself.—*Montreal Med. Chron.*

PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

The Annual Commencement for conferring degrees was held on the 19th of March, and the following graduates have, by vote of the Board of Trustees, received the honors of the College. The address was delivered by Prof. R. P. Thomas.

The following is a list of the graduating class, and the subjects of thesis :

James R. Baker, Penn., Radix Zedoariæ; Ferris Bringhurst, Del., Lapis Calamainaris ; Noah B. Brower, Penn., Tinctures ; Jonathan

H. Bunn, N. J., Arnica Montana; James M. Caldwell, Penn., Strychnos Ignatia; Samuel Campbell, Penn., Lycopus Virginicus; F. B. Dancy, Miss., Malambo or Matias Bark; Jos. F. DeChoudens, France, Liquor Tartari Boraxati; William S. Fleming, Penn., Strychnos Ignatia; Charles W. Hancock, Penn., True Position of the Druggist; C. Collin Hughes, Penn., Colchici Semen; John F. Kaufman, Penn., Essential Oils; Albert D. McConaughy, Penn., Juglans Cinerea; Jacob B. McMullen, Penn., Cytisus Scoparius; T. L. Massenburg, Va., Rubus Villosus; James R. Mercein, Penn., Cornus Sericea; John T. Mercer, O., Asclepias Tuberosa; Leander Neal, Penn., Comptonia Asplenifolia; Joseph G. Richardson, Penn., Veratrum Viride; Frederick Rohrbacher, Penn., Pulvis Sennæ Compositus; Peter Schurk, Jr., Iowa, Matico; J. Pedro Seuret, Cuba, Adiantum Pedatum; James H. Steen, Penn., Spigelia Marilandica; Horace B. Taylor, Penn., Capsicum; J. Bloomfield Wetherill, Penn., Barosma Crenata; Joseph Young, Penn., Rhus Toxicodendron; Jacob B. Zieber, Penn., Stillingia Sylvatica.

The Sinking Fund Committee made a report showing that they have during the past year extinguished one share of the College Loan, and have in hand $90 75.

The Latin Label Committee reported their operations for the past year, and in view of the small stock of yellow shop labels on hand, they were encouraged to publish an edition of yellow labels somewhat improved on the present, and also a smaller set for physicians' offices; should the bronzed labels be sold before the next meeting, the Committee is authorized to issue another edition of these.

The Corresponding Secretary presented a pamphlet sent to the College by M. Henri Buiguet, Secretary of the Society of Pharmacy, Paris, on a new process for estimating carbonic acid in mineral water, &c., which was accepted.

The College being reminded that the Annual Meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association will occur before the next meeting of the College, the following, on motion of T. P. James, was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we cordially invite the American Pharmaceutical Association to hold its sessions in the College Hall, and request the Board of Trustees to take timely action in order to secure the reception and proper accommodation of the members while in our city.

The annual election was held March 30, and resulted in the choice of the following officers for the ensuing year:

President, Charles Ellis; 1*st Vice President*, S. F. Troth; 2*d Vice President*, Dillwyn Parrish; *Recording Secretary*, Edward Parrish; *Corresponding Secretary*, Wm. Proctor, Jr.; *Treasurer*, Ambrose Smith.

Eight Members of the Board of Trustees, Dr. R. Bridges, Wm. Hodgson, Jr., D. S. Jones, J. C. Savery, S. N. James, T. S. Weigand, S. S. Bunting, F. C. Hill.

Delegates to the American Pharmaceutical Asssociation, D. Parrish, Ambrose Smith, Wm. Proctor, Jr., Charles Bullock, T. S. Weigand.

Committee on Sinking Fund, S. F. Troth, Edward Parrish, Ambrose Smith.

Publication Committee, Charles Ellis, Dr. R. Bridges, Wm. Proctor, Jr., Edw. Parrish, A. B. Taylor.

PROGRESS OF INVENTION.

The latest contrivances patented at Washington, which come within the legitimate range of surgical or medical cognizance, are as follows:—

An Enema-Giving Apparatus—By T. H. Babbitt, of New York city, who claims the combination of the portable reservoir—a flexible tube and the nozzle—which, as a whole, becomes an exceedingly convenient piece of mechanism for giving injections by hydrostatic pressure. Patent dated March 17th, 1857.

A Hernial Truss—By A. J. Harden, of Shebby, N. C., who claims the invention of the position and application of a certain lever, referred to in a drawing.

Setting Mineral Teeth—By John Allen, city of New York. This is an addition to a patent granted Dec. 23, 1851. He claims a new and useful improvement of setting mineral teeth on metallic plates, by means of a fusible mineral compound, which fills up all the interstices between the teeth, so that there is neither seam nor crevice.

Enema Syringe—By C. H. Davidson, of Charlestown, Mass., and H. E. Davidson, of Gloucester, Mass. They claim the combination of the prolate spheroidal-shaped elastic sac, with flexible tubes terminating in valve-boxes containing valves, arranged for the purpose of eduction and ejection, when the tubes and valve-boxes are in, or nearly in, the same axial line—the whole operating together.

Where is our friend Dr. Mattson? This

cannot be a very far remove from his popular instrument.

A Life-Preserving Bedstead and Sofa—By J. T. Garlick, city of New York. He claims an air-and-water-tight thing, which may be serviceable at sea. All inventions for saving life on the ocean, should be heartily encouraged. Ot course, on land, they have no superiority over the common articles of furniture.

A Veterinary Syringe—By William Somerville, Buffalo, N. Y. He claims to have provided the syringe with a spring of certain utility. Any kind of a syringe, whether meritorious or not, seems to have a ready market. Next to a truss, it is a beautiful affair for a patent, because not only the syringe itself will sell, but the right to sell also. We are a great people for patents in this country.

An Invalid Chair—By Ransom Wetherell, Huntington, Mass. He claims the attachment of certain bars, which give to the chair a superiority over former inventions.

Nothing of a remarkably ingenious character has appeared for some time, which is of much importance as auxiliary surgical apparatus.—A modification of old principles, so as to make a merchantable article—something to sell at a profit—characterizes the more recent of these things, according to our individual estimate. Trusses and syringes are decidedly the best patents, as before remarked, for turning pence into pounds.

A QUEER MEDICINE.

In the materia medica of some of the oriental nations, numerous inert articles have a high reputation for their imaginary medicinal properties. What a singular tonic is the following, in Cambogia. The good Bishop Pallegoix says the rhinoceros is sought principally for his horns and skin, which are supposed to possess great medicinal virtue for strengthening the sick. The horns are really pilous, made up of fine hairs, so compact as to make a formidable weapon for the animal. When grated and mixed with the skin, prepared in the same manner, and long while boiled, and mixed with various flavoring spices, it becomes a beautiful, sapid gelatine, very delicate and easy of digestion. The hoofs of horses or cattle would really be preferable,on account of being more easily reduced to jelly. Instead of understanding the value of this preparation in its true dietetic character,the erroneous opinion prevails that it has a wonderful agency in driving away diseases.

Dr.Bradley, a missionary physician from the United States, who practises in Bangkok, the capital city of Siam, says that of one thousand four hundred and fifty cases which came under his care for treatment, there were only eighteen of fever, and those generally of a mild intermittent type. Hepatitis, so common in Burmah and British India, is rare, and pulmonary consumption almost unknown. People often reach extreme old age, and it is not at all uncommon to meet persons who have reached one hundred years of age. The thermometer rarely falls below 59 ° in winter, and yet the inhabitants appear to suffer from what is considered extremely cold weather. The highest range of the mercury is 97 °, in the shade; and the mean annual average is 82–57 °, and the mean annual range 13.40 °. Fortunately, the so-called medicines of the native physicians, from their inertness or delicacy as food, do little or no harm, which explains why so few die under medical treatment.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.

Medicated Inhalation in the treatment of Pulmonary Consumption, Bronchitis, Asthma, Catarrh, and Clergymen's Sore Throat; comprising all the recent discoveries and improvements in this mode of practice, together with the remedies used, by H. P. Dillenback, M. D., with numerous cases and engravings. Boston: Published by Geo. C. Rand & Avery. 1857.

This is the title of a well-printed octavo, devoted to the consideration of a disease that has defied the skill of physicians, under ordinary circumstances, in all countries and climates where it appears. All orders of practitioners grapple with it, but the victory is still on the side of the malady. The learned write upon its cause and treatment, but to little purpose, and the annual bills of mortality, by the painful increase of victims, show the imperfection of medical science.

Here is a fine opportunity for an immensely tedious dissertation on the predisposing causes, hereditary predisposition, and other points connected with the domain of pulmonary consumption; but experience admonishes us not to obtrude our own individual views, under the hallucinated idea that we are giving those of the author.

It does not appear that the author intended to present anything new in regard to the physiology, anatomy, or functions of the respiratory organs; nor indeed could he have collected anything more striking in a collection of cases than may be found throughout the whole commonwealth of medical literature. He claims attention, if we understand him, on the score of having been successful to a surprising degree in the treatment of those diseases referred to particularly on the title-page, by the agency of inhaled remedies.

This plan of medication is not new, nor is it decidedly an antiquity. With those affections which derange the breathing apparatus and the contiguous organs, Dr. Dillenback is unquestionably quite familiar; but since there are no specifics, his practice cannot be essentially different from that of medical practitioners in general. By making a speciality of this branch of practical medicine, it would be very extraordinary indeed if he were not entirely familiar with each and every phase in the list of pulmonary derangements; and quite successful, too, in the treatment, beyond those who labor with equal zeal in general practice, without knowing any too much about the structure of organized beings, or consumption n particular.

There are twelve chapters; and on completing a survey of their contents, it is still a query whether the author has written for physicians, or the people at large. The latter, on the whole, seems to have been intended.

Not many months ago, a book appeared in New York, by Dr. Hall, on Consumption, which may have induced Dr. Dillenback to give the results of his experience and observations. Educated medical men will not trouble themselves to read much more than what may be properly called the essential character of the volume, viz., the author's process of inhalation, and the material to be inhaled.

A variety of cases are cited, illustrative of the value of the author's system, and engravings, also, so that no one of ordinary intelligence can mistake the mechanism of the contrivance by which warm, cold and hot vapors, charged with medicinal properties, are conveyed directly into the air cells. This is certainly far superior to Dr. Middleton's proposition to convey pulverized barks to the same delicate receptacles.

What the medical press may say to Dr. Dillenback's efforts remains to be seen. It is not difficult to suppose what destination they will give the author. When we have become better acquainted with the merits and demerits of the work, they will form the text of a discourse at a convenient period.

Pulmonary Consumption, in its worst forms, —which means a destruction of portions of the lungs—is wholly beyond the reach of medicine. Without the vital organs intact, life cannot be sustained. In short, in the various stages of the disease, from a simple irritation of the bronchial membrane to a destruction of the air cells, all manner of remedies, in the hands of all manner of practitioners, from the most ignorant pretenders to the most distinguished of modern physicians, have alike proved utterly powerless. Consequently it is the favorite ground for the display of quackery. The sufferer seizes upon straws, and hence no one malady to which humanity is incident, has been so variously treated. It would, therefore, be a phenomenon, if some temporary relief had not been occasionally found for the consumptive; and when taken at the commencement, before extensive disorganizations of the pulmonary tissues had taken place, the disease has perhaps been actually arrested. Physicians certainly speak with confidence of curing phthisis, if taken seasonably. That is precisely the intention of the author. He could not be so blind to the first principles of physiology, as to hold out an expectation of restoring a patient when the lungs are no longer in a condition to vitalize the blood.

Medical writers are remarkably quiet both in Europe and America. Since the medical press announced its severe displeasure at the shameful imposition of allowing little, unheard-of scribblers to put their names on re-publications of the first works of the age, as editors of an American edition, books are becoming curiosities when they do appear. That is, they are pure and undefiled by the affix of some nobody with an M. D.

A Popular Treatise on the Causes and Prevention of Diseases of the Throat and Lungs, by Samuel Fenwick, has appeared in London.

Phantasma, or Illusions and Fanaticism of Protean Forms, productive of Great Evils, by R. Madden, is another English announcement. It might be a good investment to re-publish it in Massachusetts. The believers in mighty mysteries are numerous; and besides, there is such an overflow of meddling, mock and hypocritical politico-fanaticism in the ascendant, that any treatise on the subject of which this work particularly discourses, would gratify the present excited appetite.

Strictures of the Urethra, by Henry Smith, will soon be on this side of the Atlantic.

Life and Pnblic Services of Dr. Lewis F. Linn, for ten years a Senator of the United States from Missouri. This is published by D. Appleton & Co., New York. He rose to distinction by personal effort. While others were quarrelling about small things in small medical practice, Dr. Linn ascended majestically, like a baloon, into a region where his competitors could not rise, had ambition prompted them.

Breeding, Training, Management and Diseases of Dogs, by Francis Butler. Those who would not purchase a volume abounding with instructions for rearing and managing their children, so that they might be healthy and wise, will dwell with enthusiasm on the best methods for rearing puppies. We hope the gifted author is not a physician, for the honor of the profession. His book will certainly sell well, because, in the estimation of some of the human family who have means and leisure, dogs are their only reliable friends.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Dr. John Kittredge, of North Andover, Mass., has received the appointment of Inspector of Customs, Boston.

Dr. Lucius M. Sargent has been appointed artist to the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston.

Dr. James B. Richardson, of New York, was recently elected a member of the Historic Genealogical Society.

A pamphlet account of the Fractured Thigh Apparatus, by Drs. J. H. & W. T. Burge, of Brooklyn, N. Y., sets forth the excellence of the invention. We should like to see it, before giving medical readers an opinion upon its merits. If they will forward the wood engravings to illustrate the mechanism, they shall appear in this journal, accompanied by remarks on the advantages secured to the patient.

The Duchess de Fleury, of the kingdom of Sardinia, in a recent letter to the officers of the College, asked for the particulars respecting the institution — the by-laws, conditions of admission, the Faculty, the course of study, &c. This movement is attracting considerable attention abroad, and medical schools for women will doubtless be established in the various countries of Europe.

On the 8th of September next, the American Pharmaceutical Association will meet in Philadelphia.

That mysterious disease, called hog cholera, which has been extensively fatal to swine, is extending, and no remedies have checked its progress.

Word comes from Rio Janeiro, saying, "We are now in the midst of the sickly season, and the yellow fever is carrying away from twenty to thirty foreigners daily, besides leaving several hundred sick in the hospitals. You will agree with me in thinking that it would be a pretty poor speculation for any company to insure my life; and as my occupations keep me out of doors, exposed to the sun, you may expect, before long, to see my obituary in the papers."

On the 4th of June, the American Institute of Homœopathy will meet at Chicago. It is the annual convocation, and extensive preparations are being made for a large representation from the principal cities of the United States.

It appears that Dr. Kane was an advocate for Homœopathy, and placed himself under the medical guidance of Dr. Peters, at the residence of Henry Grinnell, Esq., in New York, before he sailed on the great Arctic voyage that has given such celebrity to his name, and also after his return.

Dr. E. H. Stockwell, of Cincinnati, is about publishing a work on "Body and Mind." The price of the volume is fixed at two dollars, and will be sent by mail to order.

M Piedaguel, of the Hotel Dieu, recommends that quinine and sub-carbonate of iron be given to lying-in women, exposed to puerperal fever. Dose, eight grains of quinine to thirty of the latter, in divided portions.

After resorting to all kinds of unnatural applications to assuage the agony of a burn, physicians whose experience is worth copying, use cold water — the colder the better, constantly applied. Instinctively the sufferer plunges his burned finger into water, and finds immediate relief. It is the true and simplest remedy.

A valuable remedy for toothache, which takes the name of Donovan's Solution, really gives immediate relief. The recipe may be found in the January number of the Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Journal.

Dr. Jesse P. Bancroft, of St. Johnsbury, Vt., has been elected Medical Superintendent of the Institution for the Insane, at Concord, N. H., in place of Dr. J. E. Taylor, who resigned a few weeks since.

Dr. Wynne, of Baltimore, made a communication to the New York Academy of Medicine, respecting the National Hotel sickness at Washington.

The city of Narbonne, in France, is now actually lighted by gas manufactured from water. This has been declared quite impossible over and over again by the chemists. When the celebrated Sir Humphrey Davy, the greatest chemist of the age, was consulted in regard to lighting streets with coal gas, he declared that it could not be done, we believe, and yet he lived to see all the principal cities of England made brilliant from that source. It is said that no one of the important inventions of modern times, ending with the magnetic telegraph, ever met the approval of leading scientific minds. Every body knows that Dr. Lardner *demonstrated* that a steamer could not cross the Atlantic — and yet he fled from his native land in disgrace, with another man's wife, in a steamship to Halifax. He also *demonstrated* the impossibility of driving a car upon a rail track more than forty miles an hour, on account of the resistance of the atmosphere; whereupon Mr. Brunell, the engineer, immediately commenced carrying the British mail bags sixty miles an hour over the Great Western Railroad!

Dr. Garwood's admirable article on Instinct and Mind has been completed in the May number of the St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal. It is refreshing to read a paper of such interest. That is the way to make a journal circulate profitably — have something in it worth reading, instead of snarling at this man or that, who is more distinguished than somebody imagines he ought to be.

A quarantine congress has been held in Philadelphia, with reference to establishing some uniform system of surveillance over vessels having sickness on board. When all arbitrarily imposed health laws are abolished, which are ruinous to commerce, the better it will be for the prosperity of the ports where they exist.

Yellow fever, which has raged fearfully at Bahia, has abated. It has been going and coming since vessels first visited the port.

The last Suffolk Medical Society meeting, on Saturday evening, May 9th, was poorly attended. Cause — no supper.

Read the report made to the Medical Society in Boston, on the subject of Criminal Abortions. Does it mean that the physicians of the city require a special law enacted to keep them from the commission of a high crime?

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, MAY 27, 1857.

How to make a Book Sell.—Authorship is a secondary affair, but making a book sell is an art which is a kind of secret, understood by only a few of the fraternity of bibliographical elite. Universal praise is dreadful for the success of any literary enterprise. Any thing very clever, which meets the approval of the press, invariably dies, like Jonah's gourd, under the first rays of the morning sun. But commence with a severe attack upon the incapacity of the gentleman who has dared to write a treatise, since it will only confirm the opinion, long entertained by a discriminating public, that he was the most unfit, of all men, for the undertaking, and then there is prospect worth following up.

Abuse a book just as village gossips mangle characters, and it is at once safely afloat over the shoals.—Excite curiosity to see a volume, by volleys of abusive criticism, and then it will be sought with a rush. So it is with persons. Slander them, misrepresent their motives, hold them up to the scorn of extremely well bred people, and a sympathy is at once engendered in the masses. Many a one has become eminent and occupied positions of distinction, which he never aspired to, through the mischievous determination of envious acquaintances, who in their attempts to ruin his humble prospects, built up what they intended to destroy.

These elements of humanity are so common as hardly to be worth mentioning; still, it is well enough to remind those who intend to rise by the fall they contemplate for others, how acorns are changed into strong oaks. Here is a specimen of two reviews, one designed to flatter a fool, because he was extremely respectable, and belonged to an immensely wealthy family circle. The other was a poor fellow, never heard of beyond the garret in which his researches were conducted, till he flashed, meteor-like, upon the leaden eyeballs of those who, being suddenly startled by a new idea, saw at once the necessity of killing off the originator of it. The real conservatives, in science, as in government, desire no progress—it is fatal to them:

"This is a brilliant exhibition of the active brain of Josephus Dobbs, M. D., honorary counsellor, &c., who has given unwearied consideration to the subject. Indeed, he has the confidence and friendship of our most respectable practitioners. Besides, the family of the author has been a leading one in society from the early settlement of the country. We flatter ourselves that the theory advanced by Dr. Dobbs respecting the origin of diseases, will be received with eclat by the educated part of the profession. Dr. Dobbs shows himself a close observer of the writings of others.—There is a delicacy of sentiment pervading the pages of this truly classical volume which is rarely seen in

purely professional treatises. We should do the accomplished author great injustice, not to urge upon medical readers the impossibility of having a perfect library for reference, without a copy of the scholarly Dr. Dobbs."

Again, the same erudite, impartial reviewer declared, that "the publication of that extraordinary tissue of commonplace nonsense, by a bookseller, is no less singular, than that the author, Dr. Swift, an obscure practitioner, unknown in town till the advent of this innovating volume was announced, should dare to write. It is wanting in character. No authorities sustain its views. Nor is that all. New, untenable ground is taken by the daring writer, who pays no deference to the teachings of those long known to the public for their cautiousness in permitting new suggestions to gather strength, till they have been sanctioned by the schools. The more we examine this presumptuous and daring flight of Dr. Swift, the more obvious it becomes that the medical profession should unite in opposing the influence the volume has a tendency to produce. Dr. Swift was formerly considered a modest,respectable man ; but this outburst shows how much we were mistaken. We trust that the press will unite with us in giving seasonable notice abroad, to prevent the sale of this singular performance, which is neither scientific nor literary. On the contrary, it is the independent opinion of Dr. Swift, who ignores those who have preceded him, and arrogates to himself in a series of propositions, certain absurdities which he has the effrontery to call newly discovered laws! Stop him! as the rabble cry when a thief is running through a crowd. Stop him, before he steals your judgment!"

The first died on the bookseller's counter. Even the copies purchased by a large circle of admiring relatives, did not exhaust a moiety of the edition; and the very talented Dr. Dobbs, who never had either an idea or opinion of his own, is scarcely known two miles from his own door. Dr. Swift, however, was damned into notoriety. Repeated efforts to smother his labors in embryo, only accelerated the sale of his works, and from being literally nothing, Dr Dobb's admirers have been the artists of his extended reputation.

Nervous Energy of Americans.—Upon no other hypothesis can practical physiologists explain the restless excitability of the people of the United States, than this, viz.: the intermingling and intermixture of the blood of the different races of all men in Europe. Here the Scotchman marries a descendant of the Mayflower pilgrim ; an Irishman had an English mother; and their children intermarried with the French, Italians ; and occasionally the aboriginal stock is represented in some branch of a family. The warm-hearted, generous people of the South, form alliances with the reserved, calculating denizens of the North; and their offspring perhaps find helpmeets abroad ; and thus all distinctions of origin are lost in the perpetual compounding of German, Danish, Swedish, Irish, Scotch, English and Welch, with each other, which has furnished an anomaly in the history of man, in this country, unlike any other known to the annals of other ages or times.

The leading, characteristic American mind, is intensely active, original and independent—a result the philosopher might have safely predicted by this extraordinary jumble of the elements of humanity, drawn from such diverse sources. Every thing, therefore, in the Republic is widely different from the monarchies of the Old World. Our institutions are deviations from the normal type in Europe. The people undertake great enterprises, and by an indomitable display of persistent activity, have given a new aspect to society. There is no parallel to their nervousness and determination, when they have resolved upon a measure.

In mechanical inventions, and labor-saving machines, their ingenuity is a standing marvel ; and next to that, in the order of their unique national proclivities, is a utilitarian tact at turning all their individual efforts to some practical account. Consequently we have no leisure—in the Northern States, certainly. No one feels at liberty to relax in the strife of life. Hence they buy, sell, and get gain with untiring eagerness, till some become slaves to their own millions of wealth. Rest is scarcely indulged in by the most independent.

A very large proportion of the community at the North and East consider public, or indeed any amusements, as a positive waste of precious time; and very many contemplate them as absolutely sinful. These opinions give solemnity, and sometimes sharpness to the features, indicative of a nervous organization that demands incessant employment in order to expend sensorial accumulations.

"Work, work, and no play," from being a maxim, has finally become a sentiment with too many rational beings—men and women, who have omitted a refined, intellectual culture of themselves, in the vigilant pursuit of more land, larger estates, and paying stocks. Transatlantic strangers remark that we have a careworn, unhappy, anxious expression, as though there were some concealed misery gnawing at the vitals. There are exceptions, to be sure, to this facial condition ; but as a whole, the friction of the soul, in the ceaseless ambition to have something more and better, is plainly shown in the face of the people.

Whether this peculiar nervous activity, showing itself in business transactions, in the factory, on the deck of the clipper, in the racing of a steamboat, in religious controversy, politics, and in the practice of the learned professions, has a tendency to multiply lunatics, remains a question for discussion. Certain it is that insanity is singularly on the increase. The cook in the kitchen meets with disappointments in the sphere of her ambition, and goes to the asylum; and the statesman, unable to succeed in his plans, commits suicide. And thus the Americans actually break, as the proverb says, when they cannot make. There

are no resting-places on the journey of life for us, because we cannot be persuaded to be comfortable. The mingling of the blood of all nations with our own, accounts, to some extent, for the nervousness, excitability, perseverance, and indomitable spirit in the various pursuits to which, as a people, we are devoted.

American Journal of Pharmacy.—It is not at all common for one journal to recommend another to patronage in all parts of this selfish world, for fear of losing a subscriber, who being induced by a commendatory notice, might discover something worth encouraging away from home. Having no such apprehension, it is with pleasure that we again urge upon apothecaries and druggists the gain to be derived by them from this learned periodical. Each number is richly stored with a kind of knowledge that they should know most thoroughly. No. 3 of the twenty-ninth volume, contains a selection of articles of a very high character. The editor has given us less of his own thoughts than usual; or else from the circumstance of having fed the intellects of his readers on dainties, they have lost their relish for the more common and coarser intellectual aliment that occasionaly occupies pages that could be more profitably stocked from Mr. Proctor's temple of literary industry.

Those medical gentlemen who are curious to keep pace with the onward progress of medicine, will find this particular periodical abounding in valuable papers and communications. Druggists, of course, must give the publication their influence; otherwise, when the scene changes, they may be at the mercy of the Pharmaceutical Journal.

Iodine Water.—Something of a scientific correspondence has passed through one stage, presumed to be preliminary to a further discussion, which may be found in the Journal of Pharmacy, between the editor, Wm. Proctor, Jr., Esqr., and Messrs. Anders & Fosdick, proprietors of the preparation known as Iodine Water, manufactured in New York.

While some deny the possibility of having Iodine held in water, Dr. Chilton, the chemist, and some others, certify to the fact that there can be a solution of it in water. Mr. Proctor speaks guardedly, as though he did not intend to commit himself. Nothing would give a freer currency to the Iodine Water, as a remedy for endless distempers and diseases, and in that respect almost rivalling the matchless sanative, of glorious memory to those who pocketed the profits on the sale—than a learned controversy. A warm dispute would soon increase the demand. The greater the quarrel, could one be provoked, the more astonishing would be the cures through its imaginary efficacy. People want a new plaything. They are tired of patent pills, although gilded. The dog-star is favorable for the advent of Iodine Water.

Medical Literature.—On a former occasion a special reference was made to the vast collection of medical works on sale and published by Messrs. S. S. & W. Wood, 389 Broadway, New York. It is presumed to have directed the attention of medical gentlemen, visiting that city, to their immense establishment. Another catalogue has been received from the same house, on which the real price of each volume is inserted. What is the reason Messrs. Wood do not keep these books on sale in Boston? Whenever we hear that orders can be answered here as promptly as in New York, the fact will be announced. The New York and Philadelphia publishers are overlooking and strangely neglecting a good market.

MARRIAGES.

In Boston, Dr. Lyman T. Gunn, of Nashville, Tenn., to Miss M. A. Hall.

In Tarbet, Ireland, Dr. Pennyfather, to Miss Mary Fitzgerald.

In New York, John Hazlett, M. D., to Miss J. Bell.

DEATHS.

At Frankfort, Germany, Dr. John Care Passavant, a physician greatly distinguished for his attainments, 67.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 16.

Michael Redding 1 day, John Britton 21 days, George Reuter 3 do., Theresa Sheridan 6 mos., Mary Ann Bell 4 do., Mary Dempsey 18 do. Mary W. Lanman 10 do., Lydia M. Dearborn 58 yrs., Cornelius Kelleher 60 do., Mary Mc Donough 11 days, John H. Greene 62 do., Elixa Ryan 30 do., Cleone G. Cooper 2 do., Joseph B. Stickney 34 do. Mary Ann Hovey 29 do., James Boyle 40 do., Avis Magnoni 76 do., Ann Barry 26 do., Margaret Kennedy 3 do., Thomas Cushing 76 do., Martha S Trow 85 do., Patrick Morrissey 10 mos., child of Frank and Isabella C. Ayer 2 days, Elizabeth Norcott 2 yrs., Thomas J. O'Brien 32 do., James Carney 3 do., Noble C. Murray 55 do., Alexander Miller 44 do., Joseph Leswich 50 do,, Daniel McDonald 45 do, Almari Seiberlich 2 do,, Margaret Curtin 35 do., Margaret Britton 34 do., Joanna O'Brien 28 do., Rose Smith 70 do., Mary A. White 3 do., Mary Tallis 5 do., James Bowers 23 do., Ellen Sweeney 2 do., Catherine Foley 61 do., Julia Murphy 28 do., Mary G. Taylor 54 do., Albert F. Brown 4 do., Michael O'Connor jr. 40 do., George L. Eddy 10 do., Thos. Linn 50 do., Luke Farmer 7 mos., John Griffin 5 do., Lydia M. Turk 2 do., John Egan 32 do., Jacob Frieze 52 do., Mary A. Mason 61 do., Fracis D'Arcy 54 do., Mary Healy 29 do.

Diseases.—Apoplexy 2, inflammation of brain 3, consumption 15, croup 3, infantile diseases 5, puerperal do. 2, unknown do. 3, scarlet fever 4, inflammation of lungs 3, teething 4, other diseases 1 each, 12. Males 27, females 29. Total 56. 35 were born in the United States, 15 in Ireland, 3 in British Provinces, 3 in other foreign places,

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE

MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME II. JUNE 3, 1857. NUMBER 10.

MEDICAL THINGS IN PARIS.

My dear Doctor,—Before leaving home I experienced much difficulty in obtaining such information as I desired regarding the medical opportunities of *Paris*. I therefore formed a resolution in my own mind, that after having become thoroughly conversant with the schools, &c., here, to attempt a slight description of them, that would be useful to those persons who intend to visit Paris for the purpose of prosecuting their medical studies, and now, after having spent some six months among the hospitals of Paris, I feel more than ever inclined to carry out my resolution. I am sure that many of the *young men* in the "*States*," who, after obtaining their diplomas, plunge directly into the practice of medicine, would hesitate before taking this almost fatal step did they know the immensity of the field here for medical and surgical observation, the free and liberal manner with which it is dispensed to all, particularly to "*Americans*." It is to these young men that I would address this letter, detailing such facts only as appear to me more important for one just entering Paris, to perfect his medical education.

"*Paris*" is the great intellectual centre, not only of France, but of the European continent and of the world; from its prolific press the most valuable publications are constantly issuing; it takes the lead in scientific research and discovery, and has every claim to be considered a magnificent and wonderful city. Its superb and beautiful collections of ancient and modern art, are with a noble spirit of generous liberality thrown gratuitously open to foreigners at all seasons. In every branch of knowledge lectures are delivered gratis by the most eminent professors, and the stranger who has paid the least attention to the fine arts, becomes, on arriving in Paris, in some measure identified with them. Even the public amusements are of a nature that tend to the improvement of the mind and the advancement of civilization. But amid all its institutions, that of *Medicine* stands out—as it should—first and foremost. It has outlived all opposition, and attained a perfection almost incredible. The lives of such men as "Dupuytren" and "Louis" have not been in vain. They not only helped to place the science of medicine on a firm basis, but have left behind them that laudable spirit of ambitious emulation, that *shall* go on working out new wonders, and enrolling new names among the benefactors of mankind. And it is here, near the ashes of these great men, that one feels more than ever "the will to do, the soul to dare."

The expense of a medical education in Paris is trifling, compared with that of the other European schools. All the lectures at the "Ecole de Medicine," and most of them at the "Ecole Pratique," are public and gratuitous; nor is any payment required for hospital attendance. A medical library, containing upwards of 30,000 volumes, and an immense museum of comparative anatomy, are daily open to the students. Gratuitous lectures are also given at the "Jardin des Plantes," the "College de France," and the "Sorbonne," on subjects relating to medicine. The study of anatomy and operative surgery alone would almost pay one for a six months' stay in Paris. By the payment of twenty-five francs, a supply of subjects for the whole season is secured, with instruction and daily demonstration. To take advantage of the hospital practice, you must have made up your mind to forget comfort and pleasure; for the visits of the professors are made before eight o'clock in the morning, and it is necessary to rise as early as half-past six. And as you can only live near one hospital, you will sometimes have to go two or three miles to attend the service of some favorite professor. Great advantages are offered in the study of special pathology; hos-

pitals being set apart for patients afflicted with diseases of the skin, those peculiar to infancy and old age, scrofula, calculus, syphilis and mental derangement. In no other country will the student have equal opportunities of observing these affections. A whole season may indeed be well spent in hospital "St. Louis," one of the largest in Europe, and chiefly dedicated to cutaneous and scrofulous diseases. The study of the diseases of women is more practised than in any other city in the world, owing, I believe, to the absence of all modesty (whether false or otherwise) in the French women; they resign themselves wholly into the hands of their physician, and allow themselves to be stripped naked, and a diseased part examined, though the bed is surrounded by students. In labor the patient is wholly uncovered for the benefit of those around, and I have often seen more than fifty students watching this process of nature. How many of our American women would be thus willingly exposed? I am proud to believe *not one!*

An American, whose time in Europe is limited to a year or so, cannot take advantage of all or even of more than one or two of the hospital practices, except by engaging private instruction from one of the internes of each hospital, which is the course usually adopted by Americans; though this is somewhat expensive, it is altogether the best way of getting at the French practice. A class is usually formed of four or five persons, who engage a teacher in the different hospitals, at the rate of about 200 francs per month; by this means they are enabled to visit a different hospital each alternate hour, and give their whole attention to those cases only which are interesting and instructive. Next to these, the clinical lessons of some of the specialists of Paris are the most instructive,—for instance, those of Desmarres and Sichel on the Eye, those of Cazeaux, De Paul, and Pajot on Midwifery, those of Dupas and Barcus on Pathology, those of Guersant on Diseases of Children, and Bernard on Experimental Physiology, are among the most important. I mention these because they are private, and one might live in Paris a long time without hearing of them. I have met several Americans who had been in Paris a year or more, but from ignorance had not taken advantage of these valuable courses.

The expense of living in Paris is about the same as in Boston or New York, though it can be made to accommodate any extent of purse. The best part of the town for one staying any length of time is near the "Jardin de Luxembourg;" the "Hotel Cornielle," "Hotel des Rome," "Hotel des Americans," are all good houses, and not extravagant. In regard to the language, I should advise one to be well grounded in the principles of the French, without even attempting to pronounce it, for he will inevitably pronounce badly, and it is much more difficult to unlearn than to learn correctly. One month among the French will do more for his pronunciation than six months' hard study at home. In deciding to come to Paris, let not the pleasures of the gay capital entice you; think not to enjoy the opera, the ball-masque, or the "cafe concerts," for if you are intent upon the great object of your visit, you will find work enough to occupy all your time. Ay, *hard* work! This will perhaps require much firmness, much self-denial; but come prepared for it; *work!* emulate the great men you see around you, and you shall help to increase the popularity of the "American student" in Paris, while you greatly multiply your private interest. Those Americans who have been here before us have gained a reputation for industry and perseverance worthy the proud land of freedom from whence they came, and now wherever there is anything to be seen which appertains to the science, you will find the Americans. The best seats in the amphitheatre are called the "American seats," as they are always filled by the *Yankees*, who have secured them by going and occupying them long before the lecture commences. From sunrise to sunset, literally speaking, you will find the *American* engaged in the close and arduous study of his profession. His attention is eagerly turned to all the mysteries of physiology and its concomitant sciences; he thinks not of his health; all his mind is absorbed in that one love of his profession. You will see him where disease is making its most frightful ravages,—where infection and contagion reign supreme. You will also see him making careful explorations of those whose diseases have buffeted human skill. Come, then, ye who have youth and strength on your side; come with a hearty will, and help to solve this great problem of our lives (disease), which has already yielded so much to the sturdy strokes which have been and are now constantly showered upon its pitiless head. Professor Simpson said, in his address to the graduates in Edinburgh, "Talk not of the heroism of him who flies to arms at the sound of the trumpet, with the phantom of glory beckoning him onward; somewhere for him in the dim future there may be honor and power, of which he dreams that

he may be the possessor, and hope whispers that he shall bear a charmed life amidst the smoke and din of the battle. But it bears no analogy to the heroism of him who voluntarily gives up his life to the interest of humanity. who consents to die that others may live, and makes this sacrifice, not that he may be crowned with glory, but that he may, by suffering death himself, bind up other broken hearts, and heal other wounded spirits." This, then, is the prowess, and these the noble achievements, which beckon you onward, and which are to reward you.

The hospitals of Paris are divided into two classes, 1st, General Hospitals, which are open to all those complaints for which a special hospital is not provided; 2d, Special Hospitals, devoted to the sole treatment of particular classes of disorders. Of both classes there are 26 in number, and the total number of beds is 17,469. A gentleman having a diploma from any of the medical schools of the United States, is admitted to these hospitals without charge. (By the way, do not forget to bring your diploma, or you may be subjected to much inconvenience, and unable to visit the hospitals.)

General Hospitals:—"Hotel Dieu," the oldest and largest hospital in the city, and being the most central, is the most frequented by students. The physicians are Drs. Legro, Heurteloup, Piedaguel, Sandras, Guerand, Grisolle, and Trousseau; surgeons, M. M. Laugier, P. Boyer, and Jobert. "Hospital Lariboisiere" is a new hospital, the finest and best arranged in Paris. Physicians, M. M. Hervez de Chegoin, Pidoux, Bourdon, Tardieu, and Herard; surgeons, M. M. Voillemier and Chassignac. "Hopital de la Pitie," physicians, Drs. Marrotte, Gueneau de Mussy, Gendrin, and Becquerel; surgeons, M. M. Michon and Maisonneuve. "Hopital de la Charite"—in charge of Drs. Bernard, Rayer, Piorry, Cruveilhier, Bouillaud, and Briguet; M. M. Velpeau and Jairin are the surgeons. "Hopital Beaujon"—Physicians, Drs. Barth, Behier, and Gubler; surgeons, M. M. Huguet and Robert. "Hopital St. Antoine"—Physicians, Drs. Aran and Oulmont; surgeon, M. Richet. "Hopital Necker"—Physicians, Drs. Guillot and Bouley; surgeon, M. Lenoir. "Hopita Cochin"—Physician, Dr. Beau; surgeon, M. Gosselin.

Special Hospitals:—"Hopital St. Louis," which I have alluded to before. Physicians, Drs. Cazenave, Devergie, Gibert, Bazin, and Hardy; surgeons, M. M. Denonvilliers and Malgaigne. "Hopital du Midi," exclusively for syphilitic male patients; its physician, Dr. Puche; its surgeon, M. Richard, who is an American, a native of Baltimore. "Hopital Lourcine," for female syphilitic patients, under the care of Dr. Bernaitz and Surgeon Morel. Hopital des Cliniques," appropriated to surgical diseases and Midwifery; the surgical department under M. Nelaton, and the latter under *Paul Dubois*. "Hopital des Enfants," as its name denotes, is devoted to the cure of diseases of children. Physicians, Drs. Bouvier, Gillette, Royer, Blache, and Bonneau; surgeon, M. Guersant. There are many other hospitals in and around Paris, but I have not yet had time to visit them.

Yours, &c., J. B. G.

N.B.—The lectures commence the 1st of November, and continue until August.—*N. H. Jour. of Med.*

RECALLING DIPLOMAS.

A statement some months since was running the rounds of the journals, that two medical schools in Georgia confer the degree of M. D. with an express stipulation that the faculty have the power to cancel the diploma if any one who has received that honor degrades himself by becoming a quack.

A question very naturally comes up thus—Who is a quack? Doctors might disagree even on that subject. But another grave inquiry presents itself for discussion, which the doctors of law could determine far more satisfactorily than a board of professors, holding their chairs under the authority of a charter, which makes them the instrumentalities for rewarding scientific merit, but not for adjudicating cases of alleged empiricism, malpractice, or waning morals

There would be singular exhibitions of personal feeling and small-beer excitability, if every professor were authorized by legislative authority to act as grand inquisitor over the medical practice of those who had diplomas signed officially by the president and faculty. Any deviation from an infallible standard which a college deemed advisable to set up, with such a law in force, with the idea of holding a rod ever after over the heads of its graduates, would effectually put an end to all progress in medicine, within its corporative limits.

All over this broad, sovereign country, there

are medical practitioners in all branches of the profession, whose originality, boldness, success and independence in thought and action, outstrip and transcend, by a thousand fold, the notable littleness of many second-rate professors, who teach exceedingly well what greater men have prepared, but who never uttered a sentence purely their own. They of all others would be the most prompt in rebuking any deviations from their own stiff perpendicularity.

Liberality of sentiment and real generosity of soul are to be found with those who mingle with the world, take part in the movements of society, and are always far happier to assist a human being to rise, than to drag him down from an eminence he may have attained by his own unaided efforts. On the other hand, those who are the most sensorious, exacting, and wilfully opposed to measures or men which they cannot control, are never more in their glory than when they have authority for acting out their bad traits of character.

Quackery means a recklessness in regard to the value of life, which may be jeopardized by preparations falsely represented to be remedies for disease. The tyranny of a college which had the force of statute law for recalling the degrees it had once conferred, would soon be avoided by students, and the sphere of its influence limited, very justly, by the boundaries of a narrow policy, inconsistent with the freedom and spirit of all the institutions of these United States.

If this definition of quackery is true, then whoever embarks in the nefarious business of endangering life by prescribing articles which are actually injurious, becomes an offender, and his practice an indictable offence, punishable by fine and imprisonment. Graduates of medical colleges must become excessively depraved to enter into conspiracies, or on their own account abandon the honorable position assigned them in society, as educated physicians, to manufacture or dispense preparations of the description here contemplated.

Bacause a physician may have embraced a new theory that strikes him as philosophical and true, or takes the liberty of trying new remedies which have been eminently successful in the practice of others, is he to be degraded and publicly denounced as a poltroon, or, what is quite equal, a quack!

Quacks have not studied medicine. Matriculate them at the lecture room—open their understandings—explain the beautiful mechanism of the animal body—teach them the responsibility of the physician, and they will speedily abandon a calling that no honest man could follow.

We cannot believe that any medical school has resolved upon a course so destructive to its own particular interests, as to confer its honors provisionally:—"If you do precisely as we direct, keep the parchment; but on the least deviation from what the college prescribes, the diploma will be recalled." Could any college or university recall its degrees of Bachelor or Master of Arts, there would be no end to the law-suits, were that new idea carried out, viz, that deviating from any standard which the institution was pleased to declare the only one recognized by its officers, however great the departure from the opinions of all the world besides.

With these views of sound policy, which are quite independent of chartered rights, we think there has been some mistake in regard to the alleged action of the Georgia colleges. "Once a bishop, always a bishop," says Would. Once M. D., the recipient is ever after a doctor of medicine.

ANEURISM TREATED BY PRESSURE.

BY T. HOLMES, ESQ.,

Surgical Registrar to St. George's Hospital.

I consider that the first contra-indication to the long-continued use of compression, in the treatment of aneurism, would be constitutional irritability or failing health in the subject of the disease. The second I believe to be the position of the aneurism. When this latter lies in contiguity with the knee-joint (a fact which may be generally determined with an approach to certainty, from the peculiar sensation communicated to the hand by the artery, raised on the swelling), the case will generally be observed to present much more urgent symptoms, and to call for proportionally prompt measures. The form and size of the opening is also a matter which must exercise the most important influence on the success of this method of treatment. When, for instance, the disease is more of the nature of aneurismal dilatation, it is, I believe, vain to hope for cure by any method which does not entirely cut off, for a time, the circulation of blood through the tumor — a result hardly to be obtained by the compression treatment, without an amount of force which cannot be borne for more than a very short period. The size of the opening

may, of course, be judged of by the loudness of the murmur, and by the time which the tumor requires to fill; and, therefore, an aneurism in which the bruit is loud and rasping, while the sac fills and empties itself slowly, is far more likely to be cured rapidly by pressure, than one in which these conditions are reversed.

These few considerations will serve, I think, to remind us of the principal contra-indications to the *long continued* use of pressure; but are there any circumstances which forbid entirely the use of this method of treatment? I believe not, so long as the sac continues entire. While this is the case, and the general health of the patient is not so much deteriorated as to render some immediate and decisive step necessary, the diminution of the force of the circulation on the tumor cannot be otherwise than beneficial directly; while the enlargement of the collateral branches, which must follow, from the diminution of the stream of blood in the artery below the instrument, while, in the part above, it remains of course the same, must have a very beneficial indirect influence upon the result of an operation by ligature, should that be found at last necessary. It is obvious that the risk of gangrene must be materially diminished, when the lower extremity is already in great part nourished by the intervention of a fresh system of vessels.

It is true that, in my third case, gangrene did occur after ligature of the femoral, where pressure had been used for some time; but it seems probable, from the symptoms and course of that case, that the pressure had not been applied efficiently and in the proper direction. In fact, it was not easy to keep an instrument on each thigh, of the pattern of the Dublin instruments. A much lighter and more manageable *presse-artere* has recently been in use at St. George's (the invention, if I am not mistaken, of Mr. Blair, of St. James's street), which acts very much in the same manner as the fingers of a man's hand; the broad part (representing the palm) lying below and outside the thigh, and the pad (representing the end of the fingers) being moveable on the connecting arm by a simple rack and pinion. This apparatus, presenting no projecting screws, &c., is not liable to be displaced as the other is, by slight movements of the body, or by a similar instrument applied to the opposite thigh; while it is far more easily managed by the patient, there being but one simple screw to look after; and its lightness makes it far more comfortable to wear.

The general conclusion to which I have been led by what I have been of the compression treatment in popliteal aneurism is this, that there are few or no cases in which the cautious use of pressure is not justifiable, the sac remaining entire; but that in persons of shattered constitutions, in aneurisms lying in contact with the knee joint, and in those which communicate very freely with the cavity of the artery, the surgeon should be prepared to give up the pressure after a short time, if no rapid improvement follows its use, and resort to the ligature. — *Asso. Med. Jour.*

ABSCESS OF THE LIVER, DISCHARGING THROUGH THE LUNGS.

BY E. M. CLARK, M. D.

Geo. L., of Detroit, aged about 28 — an engine-driver on the Michigan Central Railroad — has had pain in his right hypochondrium for a year past; and symptoms of suppressed bilious secretion have recurred from time to time, which were generally relieved by the use of mild mercurials. The pain, however, still continued and increased, accompanied with a general appearance of fulness or enlargement of the side affected. After suffering from this pain about nine months, he was obliged to abandon business. He grew rapidly worse; had chills and fever; cough supervened, which increased rapidly in severity, and attended with mucous expectoration. There was, at this time, dulness on percussion from two inches below the ribs upward to the fourth rib. One day, during a severe fit of coughing, a large amount of pus was expectorated. It came so rapidly as nearly to produce suffocation. From this time he sank rapidly. Hectic symptoms increased, and large quantities of pus were expectorated daily. I had suspected the existence of abscess of the liver, and examined frequently with the hope of finding some point of adhesion between the liver and the parieties of the abdomen, where an opening might be made. I finally discovered a point indurated to some extent, and situated near the anterior extremity of the lower short rib, where I believed sufficient adhesion had taken place to warrant an opening. I introduced an exploring knife and reached the abscess. I then enlarged the opening slightly, and drew off 16 ounces of pus, after which I closed the wound by collodion. After an in-

terval of two days I drew off about 16 ounces more and again closed the orifice. I continued to draw off pus at intervals of one and two days, until the secretion had considerably diminished, and then left it free to discharge as fast as it collected. The cough and expectoration diminished rapidly, and under the liberal use of tonics my patient soon recovered his health.

It is now about four years since Mr. L. suffered from this illness, and up to this time he has enjoyed excellent health. — *Med. Independ.*

AFRICAN RACES.

The people of Sudan are of two classes, called, in that country, "black men" and "red men" The latter may be described as woolly-headed Indians. They are numerous on both sides of the Niger, amounting, perhaps, in all, to twenty or thirty millions. Some of them, as the Pulohs, are Mohammedans, but others, mentioned by Caillé, like many of the blacks in Sudan, are heathen. Central Africa includes numerous kingdoms, most of which acknowledge the authority of the Puloh Emperor, who resides at Sokoto. These countries are generally populous. Some of their numerous towns are very extensive, but we can scarcely make a satisfactory conjecture as to the number of inhabitants.

Sudanese are considerably advanced from mere barbarism. Whether heathens or Mohammedans, they are clad in trousers and tunics. They are remarkably courteous in their social intercourse. Their women do not labor on the farms. Several rude arts are commonly practised, as the smelting of iron and in some places of copper and lead; the manufacture of hoes, axes, adzes, knives and swords; the spinning of cotton and silk, (the latter, a new article, worthy of our better acquaintance), weaving and tailoring, both of which are regular professions; dyeing blue, yellow and red; soap-making; brewing corn and millet; making palm and grass hats; also, saddles, bridles and sandals, and a sort of shoes and boots. Three towns in Nufe, have the art of working in glass, and they produce an article which it is said cannot be successfully imitated in Europe.

But the great business of the people is agriculture, in which they are far more skilful and industrious than we have supposed. The farms of some large cities extend to a distance of twenty five miles from the town walls. The principal crops are Indian corn, the same as our own, and the tropical yam. But they also plant cotton, sugar-cane, beans and peas, sweet potatoes, cassava, ground peas, ginger, red pepper, &c., and the country is admirably adapted to coffee and other tropical productions of great value to the civilized world. The domestic animals are the same as our own: a fine breed of cattle, two kinds of sheep, the bearded ram being peculiar to that country, goats, hogs, horses, asses, &c. Some of the horses brought to Ilorrin by the Moors and Arabs, have sold, as I am assured, for one thousand dollars; but the price of a pony varies from fifteen to thirty dollars.

CHINESE CONTEMPT OF LIFE.

Reverence for life there is none, as life exists in superfluous abundance. A dead body is an object of so little concern that it is sometimes not thought worth while to remove it from the spot where it putrifies on the surface of the earth. Often have I seen a corpse under the table of gamblers; often have I trod over a putrid body at the threshold of a door. In many parts of China there are towers of brick or stone, where toothless (principally female) children are thrown by their parents into a hole made inside of the wall. There are various opinions as to the extent of infanticide in China, but that it is a common practice in many provinces admits of no doubt. One of the most eloquent Chinese writers against infanticide, Kwei Chung Fu, professes to have been specially inspired by the "God of Literature" to call upon the Chinese people to refrain from the inhuman practice, and declares that "the God" had filled his house with honor, and given him literary descendants as the recompense for his exertions. Father Ripa mentions that of abandoned children, the Jesuits baptized in Pekin alone not less than three thousand yearly. I have seen ponds which are the habitual receptacles of female infants, whose bodies lie floating about on their surface.

CHINESE LOVE OF PROGENY.

A childless person is deemed an unhappy, not to say a degraded man. The Chinese moralists set it down as a law, that if a wife give no children to her husband she is bound by every tie of duty to encourage and to pa-

tronize a concubine, through whom his name may be preserved and provisions made that when he leaves the world honors will be done to his manes. One of the most popular of Chinese writers says, "There are in the world wives who, never having born boys nor nourished girls, even when the husband has reached the age of forty, prohibit his bringing home a concubine or entertaining a handmaid for the purpose of continuing his posterity; they look upon such a person with jealous hatred and malignant ill-will. Alas, do you not know how fleet time is? Stretch as you may your months and years, they fly like arrows; and when your husband's animal spirits and vigorous blood shall be exhausted—then indeed he can never beget children, and you, his wife, will have stopped the ancestral sacrifices, and you will have cut off his generation; then repentance, though you may exhibit it in a hundred ways, will indeed come too late; his mortal body will die; his property which you, husband and wife, have sought to keep together, will not descend to his children, but be fought for by multitudes of kindred and relations; and you will have injured not one person only—not your husband only—but even yourself; for who shall take charge of *your* coffin and *your* tomb? Who shall bury you or offer sacrifices? Alas! your orphaned spirits shall pass nights in tears."

Sir John Bowring says:—"One of our female servants, a nominal Christian, expressed her earnest desire that her husband should have another wife in her absence, and seemed quite surprised that any one should suppose such an arrangement to be improper."

SELECTIONS FROM HIPPOCRATES.

The lad, that was first taken delirious, made thin clear urine; and his evacuations the other way were thin and plentiful, without bile. His tongue was very rough; his fever burning; his belly tumefied; and he could get no sleep. In his ravings upon the eighth day (if I mistake not) he behaved very wantonly, getting up, fighting, and talking very obscenely, contrary to his usual manner. Upon making a great deal of thin water in a gushing manner (for it had been suppressed), sleep came on, together with a continual sweat, that seemed from the circumstances to be critical, much about the tenth day. After this his madness returned, and he died suddenly the eleventh; occasioned (I imagine) by his drinking much neat wine a little before his madness. His age was about twenty.

In autumn, Eumenes's wife vomited black bile, as was also evident from the smell. A fever ensued, with chilliness, heartburn, and little bilious vomitings, in which came away a worm. Her stools were thin all along before the setting of the Pleiades, and stopped about that time.

Hemorrhages; short fevers, that returned immediately for a little while; aversions to food; extreme languors and lassitudes; nauseas and heartburns happened about the same time, together with a discharge of worms about the crisis, shiverings, and bilious complaints.

The young man that was a stranger bled much at the nose the third, the fourth, and the fifth day; the sixth it stopped, and a moderate delirium followed. The seventh, no stool; a comatose disorder. The third day a relapse; the belly loosened; the urine I saw not. About the crisis things were as they ought. But about the setting of the Pleiades southerly winds set in, with gentle showers. The young man had then a great many mucous, bilious, digested, viscid stools; and a violent fever continually, with a dry tongue. The sixth day it came to its crisis. The seventh it returned again, and went off the same day with a trembling. The sixth day there was a glutinous thick discharge from the left ear.

The boy that had the phagedænic ulcer, had his lower teeth, and the fore-teeth of the upper and lower jaw fall out by suppuration, and a cavity was left there. Now, where the bone of the palate comes away, the nose sinks in the middle: and where the upper teeth were before, the end of the nose becomes broad. The fifth from the fore-teeth has four roots, two of which are united to both the next teeth, and all the extremities turned inwards. The third tooth is more liable to suppuration than all the others, and to occasion thick rheums from the nose, as well as pain in the temples. This was eaten away, especially the fifth, and in the middle was a tubercle of the two fore-teeth; the less was first eaten away in the inside by the two next. The seventh had a thick sharp root.

The Athenian boy had a pain of his tooth, the left side below, the right above, that was carried off by an abscess in the right ear.

After the Pleiades the weather was mild, cloudy, and misty. The crises happened upon the fifth, sixth, and seventh day, and even later. The fevers were subject to return, to be erratic, to be bilious, and attended with

aversions to food. Dysenteries also, with aversions to food, and vehement fevers, were complained of. About the setting of the Pleiades the southerly winds came strong, attended with hemorrhages, and fevers nearly resembling tertians, besides others of another kind, in which the patient is cold and shivering perpetually. They call them Ηπιαλα.

A very old man, who had a great abscess, held out not above fourteen days.

COMMUNICATIONS.

(Communicated for The Medical World.)

CASES OF HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT.

[Translated from the German, by H. L. H. Hoffendahl, M. D.]

Remarkable Fibrinous Exudation of the Pleura.

BY DR. LINDNER, OF DRESDEN.

(From the Zeitschrift für Hom. Klinik.)

On May 29th of last year, a lady brought for my inspection her child, a boy 6 years of age. His general appearance, his large, brilliant eyes, his long curly hair, his emaciated countenance, presenting on each cheek a spot of bright red, his short, anxious breathing, all these symptoms were calculated to lead the observer to suspect some deep-seated and fatal lesion. The patient appeared at first sight to be affected by a considerable scoliosis, as his right shoulder was considerably higher than his left, and his head had also a decided inclination to the right side. The mother told me that she feared that her son had done himself some internal injury on jumping from a garden wall, some seven or eight days ago. She was sure that there had been no deformity in her boy's shape before this time, because she bathed her children at least once a week, and would notice any change in their shape, just as certainly as she had observed the present deformity, and its rapid increase during the last two days. On having the boy undressed, the appearance of scoliosis was still very striking; the acromion of the right side was at least two inches higher than on the left side, and the space between the clavicle and the scapula showed, not a depression, but an elevation, so that all the muscles of the neck on the right side appeared shortened and thickened. On turning the patient, I noticed that, although the right scapula projected considerably, its borders were not so well defined, or so much elevated, as is usual in cases of deformity. On letting the boy stoop forward so as to cause a projection of the spinous processes of the vertebræ, it became evident that there was no separation between the vertebræ, and no deviation of the spinal column. I now made a more careful examination of the patient's front, and found that each rib on the right side was pushed outward considerably, at its junction with the sternum; moreover, on placing my hand on the chest, I found that the right side was not moved by the rapid and pretty vehement act of respiration, and that the expanded intercostal spaces did not contract during expiration. [I would here add that I took the dimensions of the patient's chest on the following day, measuring from the articulation of the fourth rib with the sternun, to the corresponding spinous process of the dorsal vertebra. The measure of the right side was 25½ inches, and of the left side only 24 inches.] After ascertaining, by careful examination, that there was no fracture or luxation of any part, I had recourse to percussion, and found to my astonishment that from the clavicle down to the region of the liver, both before and behind, the sound was as dull as if I had been percussing the patient's thigh. The right lobe of the liver protruded slightly beyond the border of the false ribs. On the left side the sound, on percussion, was normal, and revealed no abnormity about the heart or spleen. The most careful and repeated auscultation of the whole right side, from the scapula down, before and behind, did not reveal the slightest trace of a respiratory murmur. As has been already remarked, there was no motion of the thoracic walls on this side, neither could the slightest friction sound be detected.

On the left side nothing could be heard except loud, puerile respiration. The sounds of the heart were very rapid, but otherwise normal, there being more than 120 pulsations per minute. The length of the examination had excited the boy very much, and made his breathing still more difficult. I therefore ordered the mother to take him home at once and put him to bed, and prescribed *aconite*, 2d dilution, 2 drops every hour. The frequent, hard pulse, the violent palpitation, the hot, burning skin, the flushed face and hasty respiration, were sufficient indications for the use of aconite, even though a decided diagnosis had not yet been formed.

On reviewing all the circumstances of this

curious case, I came to the following conclusion: It was evident that the existing deformity was not of a chronic nature, but of very recent date. The protrusion of all the ribs of the right side, and the abnormal elevation of the shoulder, had their origin in some morbid process located in the interior of the right thorax. Three possibilities were here to be regarded. The completely dull sound on percussion, the entire absence of the respiratory murmur, and the total immobility of the right side, could be owing to, 1st, a completely hepatized lung; 2d, empyema, or any other fluid exudation of the whole right chest; 3d, a solid exudation of the right pleura.

The supposition of a hepatization of the right lung was justified by the dull sound on percussion, and the immobility of the chest during respiration. Supposing for a moment that this assumption was justifiable, then it would follow that this either was a case of red or grey hepatization, or of what is called indurated hepatization. The presence of miliary tubercles was out of the question, as they never produce anything but lobular hepatization. But, on the other hand, it is almost an impossibility that an inflammation of the lung should reach an intensity sufficient to produce total infiltration of one-half of the chest, without causing speedy death. Besides, an infiltration of the pulmonary tissue would not explain the dilatation of the chest, or the projection of the intercostal spaces. Tubercular, cancerous or hemorrhagic infiltration would be accompanied by a dull sound on percussion, but they could not increase the volume of the lung; while an atrophied condition of the lung would be followed by a contraction of the superimposed portion of the thorax. Finally, these infiltrations, having generally a slow development, are almost always followed by bronchiectasis of the affected lung, while, if the whole of one lung is affected, bronchiectasis is sure to occur on the opposite side. Now, as in this case nothing but puerile respiration could be detected on the left side, we have here another reason for rejecting the assumption of an infiltration into the parenchyma of the lung. Another point of negative evidence was the total absence of vibrations of the voice, which would have indicated hepatization.

My second supposition,—that this was a case of empyema, or some other fluid exudation,—was better supported by the existing physical signs, such as the dull sound on percussion, the absence of respiratory murmur, the enlargement of the right side of the chest, the protrusion of the intercostal spaces, and the horizontal position of the ribs. Still, I soon rejected this supposition for the following reasons: The facial expression of individuals affected with hydrophic, purulent, or other fluid pleuritic exudation of any extent, is entirely different from that of my little patient. In this case there was wanting the expression of deep suffering, the emaciation and pallor, the peculiar sunken appearance of the countenance, which are generally observed in cases of sudden pleuritic exudation. Moreover, there was the strong, full pulse, and the great heat of the whole cutaneous surface; whereas, in cases of large pleuritic exudation, the pulse is generally small, even if very rapid, while the temperature of the skin is generally uneven, the extremities particularly being alternately hot and cold, and, in cases of *purulent* exudation, the superimposed portion of the surface is generally cool to the touch. Besides, my patient did not complain of the internal, burning pain, which generally accompanies fluid exudation, and change of position did not increase the anxiety and difficulty of breathing. To be sure this difficulty was so great as to have prevented the patient from sleeping for two days and nights, still there was no increase of anxiety on lying on the left side. Finally, a fluid exudation is probably never so extensive as to efface the normal depression between the clavicle and scapula.

I therefore rejected the assumption of a fluid exudation of the pleura. To justify my diagnosis of a *non-fluid fibrinous exudation of the costal pleura*, let us observe the patient's condition at my visit the following morning. On the previous day, although a precise diagnosis had not been formed, I had ordered *aconite*, to diminish the intensity of the vascular action, and to restrain the still increasing inflammatory process. At 9 o'clock in the morning I found the patient in bed, in a half sitting posture; the face was well flushed, although a pretty copious perspiration had begun to cover the whole cutaneous surface at about midnight; the pulse was at least 15 beats less frequent than yesterday, and was less hard and full; the inspirations and expirations were less protracted, owing to the diminution of the pulse.

The sound on percussion was still *completely dull*, from the clavicle to the border of the liver. Auscultation revealed no respiratory murmur or friction sound throughout the right side; the right thorax was still entirely motionless; the acromion stood much higher on the right side than on the left; the ribs had a horizontal

position; the intercostal spaces were expanded, and the right side measured 1½ inches more than the left. The only change was that the respiration, which was yesterday puerile, began to assume a bronchial character, showing that, owing to the rapidity of the process of exudation, the changes in the healthy lung had but just commenced.

I have repeated this summary of the physical signs for the purpose of showing that, after rejecting the idea of hepatization or fluid exudation, we are only justified in diagnosing a fibrinous exudation of the right pleura. The question will probably occur to the reader, how a pleurisy could progress so rapidly, and how a non fluid exudation could extend so completely over such a large surface. This may be partially explained as follows: The patient, who is a wild little fellow, found that he had hurt himself while in violent play. Being restrained from mentioning it to his parents from fear of punishment, he did not keep in bed,or even at home,until his parents noticed the change in his shape. The sudden appearance of such an extensive exudation, may also be explained in part by the peculiar and irrational attempts at treatment on the part of the boy's father. This man is a great admirer of Hydropathic treatment, but has a very imperfect idea of its rational application. When he heard that his son had a pain in his side, he at once applied towels wet with cold water to the painful spot; renewing the application every five minutes, he continued this treatment, day and night, for thirty-six hours, and also gave the boy two cold baths during this time. This continued application of extreme cold, checked the reaction of the surface and the tendency to transpiration, and probably diminished the temperature of the *inner* wall of the thorax to such an extent as to cause a coagulation of the exudation as soon as it was formed. I can think of no other mode of explaining this process, but would thankfully receive any better explanation.

To promote the absorption of the exudation, I now gave *bryonia*, 2d dilution, two drops every two hours. On this and the following day, there was no change, except that the patient had several naps of more than an hour's duration, while the diminished rapidity of the pulse and the diminished bronchial respiration showed at least that the disease was not increasing. On the next day the sound on percussion was already normal in front and behind, as far down as the second rib; and during the next eight days the normal sound gradually increased until it reached the intercostal space between the fourth and fifth ribs. At the same time, the normal respiratory sounds returned, without cough or expectoration, and without the subcrepitant rale which is heard during the resolution of hepatization. The absence of friction sound at the first examination, may be explained by the large mass of exudation, and the immobility of the thoracic walls. But why no friction sound was heard during the resorption, and why the exudation disappeared from above downward, as if it had been fluid, and not at isolated points, is a matter more difficult to determine. Suffice it to say that the facts were as they have been stated. Under the use of *bryonia*, the exudation retreated to the level of the fifth rib in a week. Here it remained for a few weeks without annoying the patient. Subsequently the secretion was entirely removed with the aid of warm baths and fomentations. The patient is now entirely well, the right chest having returned to its normal dimensions.

Tuberculosis.

BY DR. CLOTAR MULLER, OF LEIPSIC.

(From the Hom. Vierteljahrschrift.)

On the 7th of July, 1852, I was called to a lady, 27 years of age, who had arrived in Leipsic the day before. Never having passed through any serious sickness, she had been married in her twentieth year; had given birth to a son five years ago, and had nursed him herself for some time. Soon after the birth of this child she removed to Vienna, where she was taken with an influenza, which was then very prevalent. This disease left her with cough, hoarseness, short breath, emaciation and weakness. These troubles continued, and finally increased to such an extent that her physician told her that a longer stay in Vienna might be followed by fatal consequences. She therefore, by dint of great exertion, travelled to Dresden; was dissuaded from remaining there by another physician, and thus finally came to Leipsic. Although Leipsic is not a good place of resort for tubercular patients, still the development and progress of tubercles is much more gradual here than in Dresden. In fact,during the summer months, consumptive patients are generally quite comfortable here, while the climate of Dresden seems to be more favorable for persons affected with emphysema, or disease of the heart. As the patient's condition was such as to make any further exertion a matter of great danger, it became

a matter of necessity that she should remain here, and I recommended a suitable residence for her in a neighboring village, out of the reach of dust and wind. Hitherto she had followed the prescription of her Vienna physician, taking *phosphorus*, 6th dilution, regularly once a day, and *hyoscyamus* during her violent accesses of cough.

The patient's present condition was as follows: — Remarkable weakness, so that she could scarcely walk twenty steps; great emaciation, having formerly been quite corpulent; want of breath after the least exertion, or after speaking a few words; great irritability, with transient heat and palpitations; every afternoon, dry heat, thirst, full feeling of the head; at night, restlessness and want of sleep; towards morning, perspiration, want of appetite, oppression at the epigastrium, scanty and constipated dejections, voice feeble and hoarse, continual sensation of pressure and burning in the throat, larynx and trachea, with a feeling of rawness, and a tendency to hawk and cough; feeling of weight over the chest; dry, short cough day and night; two or three times a day, very violent accesses of spasmodic cough, followed by great exhaustion, dyspnœa, and burning heat of face and head; scanty, tough and thick expectoration, occasionally mixed with small streaks of blood; menses insufficient, or absent for four months; skin dry, pale, of a dingy hue; depression of the lungs under both clavicles, but especially on the right side; slight and irregular motion of the thorax, during respiration; dull sound on percussion at the upper part of the chest, but especially on the right side; at the apex of the right lung, bronchial respiration; lower down, indefinite and weak vesicular murmur; pulsation of the heart very strong; second tone of the pulmonary artery increased, bruit de diable in the jugular veins.

These symptoms left no doubt of the correctness of the diagnosis of tuberculosis. This disease, commencing probably with the neglected influenza, and localized particularly at the summit of the right lung, had been so much accelerated in its development by various depressing mental emotions, and by the exertions of an untimely journey, that a rapid course and speedy termination were very probable. I discontinued the previous remedies, and prescribed *iodine*, 3d dilutions, one drop mornings and evenings, insisting, at the same time, upon a total cessation of bodily and mental labor. Hereupon the violent accesses of cough ceased almost at once, and the general condition also improved, although more slowly. This treatment was continued for four weeks, *merc. solub.* being given a few times in the evening instead of the iodine. At the end of this time the patient had improved so much that, without much exertion, she could walk from her place of residence to the city, a distance of about four miles. The cough continued to diminish, and the voice became more full and clear. The principal troubles were now a feeling of weight over the chest, especially on lying down, occasional quick flushes of heat, and a feeling of discomfort in a warm room. For these symptoms, *bryonia* and *belladonna* were given, *iodine* and *mercurius* being still repeated at longer intervals.

At the end of four months the patient told me that she believed herself pregnant. This circumstance gave me no great uneasiness, as I had repeatedly noticed a decided pause in tubercular disease during pregnancy, and had found that even the puerperal period and the process of lactation were passed through without serious trouble by women affected in a moderate degree by tuberculosis. My patient passed through the winter months with no troubles except those peculiar to pregnancy, although she had, contrary to my advice, remained in her country lodgings, which were not suitable for winter. But in February there was an aggravation of the cough, which had for some time been very rare and slight. At night, especially, there were violent and long accesses of a short, dry cough, with a dry feeling of the larynx and trachea, and a sense of suffocation; at the same time the feeling of weight and oppression over the chest returned, especially on lying down in bed. Against these symptoms, *bryonia* proved very effectual, for not only did the insupportable irritation of the throat disappear very quickly, if this remedy was taken at the beginning of one of the accesses of cough, but this whole aggravation disappeared entirely in the course of eight days, and the patient has had no pulmonary trouble since then.

The rest of the pregnancy and the puerperal period were passed through without any accident, the patient being only annoyed by a too copious flow of milk, which caused some trouble for a week. The child, a girl, although not large, appeared well nourished, and even fat, and has since developed rapidly and normally. After her confinement the patient soon regained almost completely her former strength and healthy appearance. The region of the right scapula is still depressed; it reveals no bronchial respiration and no vesicular murmur,

while in the neighborhood there is increased vesicular breathing. The voice is more clear and strong, and only becomes weak after talking loud for a long time.

This is certainly a very favorable termination of a case of tubercles, accompanied by such formidable phthisical signs, even if we allow the possibility of a more or less speedy return of the disease. We have here a good example of the palpable effects of Homœopathic remedies, and their beneficial influence on morbid conditions which are generally considered unapproachable or incurable. Making due allowance for the beneficial effects of a change of air and residence, and the favorable influence of pregnancy, still the effects of *iodine* at first, and of *bryonia* at a later period, were too direct and clearly defined to admit of any reasonable doubt of their influence on the course of the disease.

[Communicated to the Medical World.]

FOOD;—ITS RELATIONS TO LIFE.

BY L. D. JARED, M. D.,

Of Quincy, Illinois.

Perhaps it would not be out of place at this time to present a few thoughts in relation to food and its physiological importance in the maintenance of life and the preservation of health. As man is essentially "an eating animal," it becomes a matter of great importance for him to inquire, what are the wants of the system which create a demand for food, and how can that demand best be met? I do not propose in this article to discuss all the important questions that may arise concerning food in its relation to functional harmony. My object is rather to call attention to some important relations which food sustains to the animal economy, which we think have been too much overlooked by nearly all physiological writers.

The solid portion of our aliment has, by common consent, been divided into two great classes, founded upon the two great indications to be fulfilled by their use, viz.: the production of tissue, and the development of animal heat.

Hence the propriety of the terms, "*histogenetic* and *calorific*," which indicate the manner in which these respective classes are used. But while we recognize the propriety of the above distinction, we think it due to the wants of the system, and to the fitness of a portion of our aliment, to supply those wants, that we should somewhat extend our conventional liberality, and embrace other divisions, which are clearly marked, both in the nature of our food and the wants of the system.

To which end, therefore, we would suggest the term "Peristaltic," as expressive of the physiological relation of a portion of our ingesta. Now, it is well known that the normal peristaltic action of the alimentary canal obtains only under the constant stimulating influence of the residual element of our food, together with the secretion from the liver. Now, this action of the alimentary tube, whereby the contents of the same are propelled onward, is necessary in a two-fold sense: First, the amylaceous and other substances that have escaped stomach digestion, must be duly admixed with the *bile* and *pancreatic* juice in the duodenum, and then, by the vernacular motion of the intestines, be brought in contact with the spread-out *villi* of the mucus coat of the same, where absorption takes place; and, secondly, the excrementitious matter secreted from the blood by the larger intestines, must find their means of escape by virtue of this same peristaltic action of which we have been speaking. Now, the muscular fibres of the intestines, which are both transverse and longitudinal, are of the nonstriated order, and hence do not act under the influence of volition, but only upon the presence of their appropriate stimuli. Having found now that this movement, which has been called peristaltic, is absolutely necessary, and that a natural stimulus is likewise necessary to procure this normal action, we should confidently expect that nature, true to her own interests, would in some way furnish the condition or conditions under which such an action as we have been contemplating could take place. And so she has, in the woody fibre of vegetables, and the epithilium of fruits, grains, etc., furnished us a normal stimulus which, if we will properly husband, will prove a perfect insurance against constipation.—Bulk, itself, within certain limits, is essential, in order to secure the greatest amount of influence which may be exerted by the alimentary canal. Now, when we view this canal as an organ contracting upon itself, we must see that there is a certain limit of *prehension*, or grasp, within which the greatest amount of force can be exerted. Suppose, for instance, that there are three apples placed before me of different sizes, one being very small, another of a medium size, and finally one very large; now, if I am required to make a certain

amount of pressure upon each of these apples, it would be very evident that a given amount of pressure would not effect so much either upon the very small apple, or the very large one, for reasons which we think are now obvious. Now, the intestinal tube may be so situated in relation to its contents as to lose much of its power when it attempts to contract upon its contained mass. The contents may be either too bulky, or not enough so; but we think the latter condition is far more apt to be the case in civic life, where the food is taken in such a concentrated form. It is, therefore, to preserve the normal amount of distention of the alimentary canal that some portions of our food relates entirely—contributing nothing in the line of heat-producing or tissue-forming, but having sole reference to peristaltic action. But it is principally by the irritating and stimulating influence of the woody texture of vegetables, and the bran of cereals, &c., that this result is obtained. And now the question very properly arises as to the relative physiological value of meal produced from the different cereals, after the Graham style, or in the usual manner of preparing and bolting it.

The settlement of this question, it will be perceived, must recline in a great measure upon the physiological basis under consideration. If the unbolted meal of wheat, rye, &c., is preferable to the article in common use, it must be in consequence of adding bulk to the ingesta, and thereby furnishing a normal amount of distension, as well as the direct stimulus from the asperity of the bran. Now, as to the propriety of denominating such portions of our food as contribute nothing to the development of heat, or the formation of tissue, and yet are essential for the purposes we have mentioned, "the peristaltic element," every one must judge for himself. Suffice it to say, that we think the term convenient and appropriate, being founded in the nature of food and the wants of the system.

For the Medical World.

SPIRITUALISM.

BY R. L. ANDERSON, M. D.

"ALTEREM PARTEM."

In almost every number of "The Medical World" I have noticed something on the subject of "Spiritualism," and it has induced me to prepare this article, and thereby to make a *few* suggestions to those whom it may interest. I understand "The Medical World" to be totally free from any design or desire to refuse a hearing to both sides of any view or subject it suffers to enter into its pages. Now, the tone of the last number is evidently calculated to make a decided hit at, as well as to prejudice minds against, the cause of "Spiritualism," in its modern and popular sense.

Against this most unfair dealing I wish to enter my decided protest. Not, indeed, as an advocate of "Spiritualism," but simply through a desire to induce fair dealing. There are *thousands*, yes, it is confidently said by both sides, *millions*, who cordially, and, as they seriously aver, conscientiously believe, that the immortal part of the previous inhabitants of earth are now in direct, though, they admit, *imperfect*, communication with men in the body. They are found amongst all classes and creeds, lettered and unlettered, in the whole land; and, therefore, their numbers, education, and respectability entitle them to *some* consideration, even from "*The Medical World.*" Yet you cannot use your pen on that subject without *insinuating*, or actually *asserting*, that they are criminally engaged in manufacturing inmates for our *insane* asylums! Now, I ask, is this any way of arguing? Is it possible that an aged and professed medical man—one who has been an *editor* for over twenty-five years, conducting "The Medical World," can find no better mode of counteracting the evils arising from any cause than by an attempt at *intimidation?*

You are certainly aware that the mind of man is so constituted that he *will seek out* the real or supposed mysteries that are brought before his mind. And are you not aware that the more certainly you render anything *mysterious*, the more strenuous will man be in searching it out? Now let us turn our minds in another direction, a little nearer home, and see how the matter stands. Suppose a few persons of both sexes to lose their senses in some new field of human investigation, who has a right to cry out insanity? Is it the M.D.? I think not.

Is it any worse to make men *insane* by tens than to destroy their lives and health by ten, of thousands in trying to cure their bodily maladies? Suppose, sir, you were about to establish a school of your *sort* in any places and knowing to be true, what one of your greatest medical lights has said.—that medicine has destroyed more lives than war, pestilence, and famine combined,—I say, *knowing*, as you yourself must admit, this to be true,

suppose I should raise my voice and warn the people against supporting or trusting to you, what could you reply? Then, sir, from all the observations I can make, I am satisfied that there is ten times, if not ten hundred times, the reason to cry out against *paint*, *dyestuff*, *chemical*, *bleeding*, and blistering doctors that there is against modern "Spiritualism." Even the ministry, who have also joined in the *intimidating hue and cry*, are as deep in the mire as you are. Of one thing, however, you may all be most certain, old and experienced as you may be in years and in medico-ethical lore, and that is, you *never* did and never *will* cure insanity in mankind by telling them they are insane.

But the main aspect of this important question I have yet to present. This is what has induced me to prepare this brief article, and I think it important to be considered by all who strive to manage man, physically, morally, and spiritually. What, then, I ask, is the reason that this attempt at intimidation is the only mode of arguing against Spiritualism? I think that the only reply can be, that none other is known with certainty to any of us. Then this is but the warning voice of a set of ignorant men, and what can it avail against the great and ebbing tide of investigation? Just nothing at all If you understand the whole matter, then you are in duty bound to speak out authoritatively, for truth always confers authority on her recipients to speak wherever knowledge is demanded. But if you do not understand it, a respectful silence is altogether comely, though under locks frosted with many winters.

But what is the reason that men are apt to become insane whilst investigating abstruse subjects? This, sir, is *the* question. Now be it known to you, that your school of medicine and physiology has had full charge of mankind, time out of mind; and have not your prolonged efforts left him just where you found him, in the depths of primitive ignorance, on this all-important question of insanity, its cause and cure?

Yet you cry out Danger, danger! when men attempt to investigate the origin of the *simple fact*, that tables, &c., move, and give forth electric vibrations indicating intelligence in responses, when orally or mentally interrogated.

Now, sir, why should such a simple *fact* turn the minds of men *up side down?* Can it be otherwise than that they have naturally and factitiously a tendency thereto? I think one or both these reasons must be admitted. This may appear too gross an assertion for some minds at the present time, but let us consider it comparatively. Philosophically speaking, it is no reflection on creative wisdom and benevolence to say, that mind and spirit are equally, with the body, subject to derangement or disease. It is a very old adage, that none but a sane body can contain a sane mind; the two are thus inseparably interblended, and therefore the true philosophy of the one is the only foundation for a correct knowledge of the other. Our adaptations, *anatomical*, *physiological*, *mental*, and *spiritual*, grow one out of the other—first that which is material, then that which is moral and spiritual. Thus man is composed of three several adaptations; 1st, *material;* 2d, moral; 3d, spiritual. These susceptibilities have their organs, through which, when undisturbed, they manifest themselves normally, according to their stage of development. It must then be abundantly evident that moral and spiritual derangements are as incident to man as physical. This is most certainly true, but not yet philosophically acknowledged. Physical derangements are called simply *diseases*, whilst at the same time those of the moral man are called *crimes*, and those of the spiritual man *insanity*. These three phases of man have called into existence three classes of professions, *Doctors*, *Legislators*, *Ministers*. These three professions, I am sorry to say, have rather appeared as factions than normal professions, but this arises from necessity, and not from intention, and is not a subject of blame, but of commiseration. The truth of the matter seems to me to be, that this "Spiritualism" is a *great fact*, let its origin be *mundane* or *supernal*, and as it is a matter which causes disease in the mental sphere, it should be sought out and fully proven, and it must eventually be of great service to mankind. Let those who are sane and strong in their mental constitutions seek it out thoroughly and put it in its proper place, otherwise those who are easily over-excited, and consequently on the very verge of disease, will be called to it and become *martyrs* to the cause.

Medicine has had its martyrs, Theology has had its martyrs, and may not Spiritualism hereafter record the trials of its early investigators?

Now, sir, I have thrown my views before your many readers, and you can easily comprehend my meaning.

If *disease* abounds, the cause of its continuance will be found in our ignorance of preventives and remedies.

If *immorality* and *crime* abound, let the men who direct our social natures take warning, and be up and doing. If *insanity* abounds in spirituality, let the clergy look to the matter, and set all dangers at rest. Now this is our duty, and when this is done fully, and *disease*, *crime*, and *insanity* still are on the increase, then we are all to blame, if blame there be in the matter at all.

Remember, " those who live in glass houses ought not to throw stones," and then we shall be ourselves happier, and not offend any by intimations that they are doing wrong.

Should you see anything in my communication not in accordance with true philosophy, let me hear it, and I will strive to amend.

Liberality, and not bigotry, is the law for humanity, and this spirit I am bound to maintain at all hazards.

Yours, truly.

Connersville, Ind.

THE PROFESSIONAL AND SOCIAL POSITION OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

The ideal and the actual are proverbially diverse. This apothegm is nowhere more keenly realized than in the practice of the healing art and its kindred branches. The medical student who is worthy of becoming a physician, enters upon his preliminary studies with the ardor and determination which characterize a conviction. He learns the structure and function of the organized frame with which he is to deal, and studies its normal condition and its deranged action. Realizing the weighty interests which are to be confided to him, an honest man can make no less endeavor than to bring up his discriminating and therapeutic qualifications to a standard, at least commensurate with the average of the profes sion. Laborious and expensive studies are pursued at the cost of personal comfort, and in a manner necessarily involving a participation in much that is revolting to the finer susceptibilities. In the end the ordeal is past, his instructors have attested his capacity and acquirements, the qualifying diploma is delivered, nd the student, become a physician, is ready to take part in the actual duties of his profession.

Here new difficulties occur: conviction of worth is the physician's passport to business; and the passive obstacles which beset his way, must be removed only by time or great, good fortune. Suppose him, eventually, after patient waiting, a discreet walk, and diligent improvement of the leisure which he has possessed in such affluence, become engaged in a business of fair extent. A few years of active service have disclosed to him the tenor of his pursuits and enabled him to look with a clear understanding upon the business and position of a medical practitioner. The romance is all gone. The chilling indifference of those who stand in the relation of friends, the unjust criticism, the misrepresentation which attends his fairest deeds, and the utter sordidness of large numbers of those for whom he has spent his best endeavors, have annulled all his generous enthusiasm, and oftentimes reduced the noblest humanity in which a man can engage, to a dull routine, in which all that should be spontaneous, is merely professional. The poetic lines of Holmes become too actual—

> " Alas! the morning dew is gone —
> Gone, e'er the prime of day;
> Life's iron fetter still is on —
> Its wreath all torn away."

But is there not a better side to the sombre picture? Let us see. What study is better designed to discipline the mental faculties, to enlarge and make comprehensive the understanding, and inspire devotion within the soul, than the pursuit of anatomy? The evidences of design and adaptation are of the most pleasing nature, and in physiology the beautiful perfection which is revealed to the student, cannot fail to fill his soul with delight. A knowledge of cell growth, the functions of the nervous system, the building power with which the ultimate capillaries are invested, and the discriminatory capacity of secreting organs and surfaces, introduces the inquirer as far within the temple of life, and to the region where vitality and matter combine, as it is possible for our senses to penetrate.

The wonders of scientific pathology are full of interest; the attainment of an accurate diagnosis is the exercise of an agreeable mental faculty which the consciousness of knowledge affords.

And then the field for the study of human nature, in all its aspects, is unrivalled. Motives become apparent, idiosyncrasies, faults and perfections all are revealed. The medical man who has conducted even for a short time an extensive practice, has had ampler opportunities for learning the undisguised condition of men than another might acquire in a lifetime of indifferent intercourse. In summing up, I

think the least contented physician, on a dispassionate survey, would not consent to part with the value which his experience has given him, for the opportunity of recovering all it has cost.

In a social position the medical man theoretically stands well, though his condition is somewhat anomalous. He ought to be able to live as well as the average of his clients, and in mental endowments he should equal the best. His friendships are on a somewhat peculiar footing. His dearest friend will dispense with his professional services, if the friend believes that another physician can better or sooner remove the infirmities to which the body is liable. And a whim or caprice is just as urgent in such an instance as a conviction. Therefore, the physician is cautious how he lays out his friendships. The more or less extended reputation which the practitioner is supposed to possess, is presumed to be, however, an equivalent for all the disadvantages which he may incur. As the exigences to which men will remain liable so long as their present organization exists, are not likely to be diminished, the practical inference is, that physicians ought to make themselves as competent and as acceptable as possible; and while they hold themselves ready to relieve the distress and sorrow which humanity incurs, at the same time retain, as a body and as individuals, that integrity, self-respectand unaffected self-appreciation, which will command the regard of all men, and be an invaluable source of comfort to the possessor. E. S.

FLOATING FACTS.

Rare Old Age. — There died, towards the close of last week, at Lissenhall, Ireland a man named John Morgan, who had attained the mature age of one hundred and ten years. Up to a recent period he was hale and vigorous, so much so as to be able to walk into Nenagh on Sundays to attend chapel, and he possessed all his faculties unimpaired: but shortly before his death he exhibited symptoms of imbecility, and his sight failed him. His constitution, however, remained sound, and his appetite good, nearly to the day of his demise. It was his custom to bathe regularly during the summer, and so hardy was his frame that, in the depth of winter he used frequently to get out of bed at night, and sit by the fire in a state of nudity, while smoking the pipe.

Boy with a Beard. — A male child is travelling on exhibition in this country, three years and a half of age, who presents several striking deviations from the normal condition of children, in several respects. The *Phrenological Journal* thus describes his appearance: "His head, above the eyes, is rather large and thickly covered with a very stout growth of wiry black hair, which appears like that of a man of thirty. His upper lip is covered with a downy mustache, a considerable beard is on his cheeks and chin, and his back and chest are covered with a perfect swamp of hair, from half an inch to an inch and a half in length, which is smooth and silky. The most marked peculiarity is an adult development of the organs of virility. He measures thirty-two inches in height, is almost as wide as he is long, and weighs ninety-six pounds. He has a very black but pleasant eye; a dark, full, childish face, but the expression is old and calm. His abdomen is enormously developed, and he drinks very copiously of water. He appears to have good sense, but not to be precocious in mental development. He was born in the town of Culm, in Prussia, Sept. 24, 1853, of parents having no peculiarities, and whose six older children have nothing to distinguish them in appearance. The press of Berlin and other continental cities published long accounts of him, and the scientific and curious from all parts of Prussia thronged to Culm to see him.

Artificial Disease — "*Life Illustrated*," in a bold, decided article on quackery, cites from the "Journal of Civilization" the following sentiment.

The whole philosophy of the administration of medicines is this: the production of an artificial disease, in order to destroy one that is natural. When a man is in good health, and takes any medicine whatsoever, he voluntarily afflicts himself with a disease; and if, when ill, he swallows the wrong drug, he adds another malady to the one of which he is already the victim. It is obvious, therefore, that even the sick had better not be physicked, than physicked wrongly. Those who take their advice from the advertisements of quackery, and buy and use the nostrums accordingly, necessarily lose their money and their health, and get nothing for their bargain but disease.

It is well known, that although the cities are the great producers of quack medicines, it is the country alone that is the consumer.

Artificial Arms. — When by artificial processes nature can be simulated so nearly that the most delicate manipulations can be obtained by machinery, it may be said invention has nearly arrived at its climax. A man named Luck, formerly employed at the royal dock-yard at Woolwich, England, had the misfortune to have both his arms torn off by machinery. By careful nursing, the unfortunate man was restored to health, and to compensate him in some degree for the great loss he sustained, the Lords of the Admiralty ordered him to be supplied with a new pair of artificial arms. These have been made so perfectly that the man can not only dress himself, and cut and eat his food, but even write letters, and by a new appliance of the most ingenious description, can shave himself closely, and without danger. The arms, it is said, are seemingly as obedient to his will as were his natural members. An English paper considers those artificial contrivances marvellous specimens of mechanical skill. They are fitted with flexible joints and fingers, in imitation of living limbs.

Homœopathy in Persia. — In General Ferrier's "*Caravan Journeys*," a work of rare interest, just published in England, the fact is recorded, that he found a French homœopathic practitioner residing in the Persian city of Hamadan. He had formerly been surgeon of a battalion of infantry, and two months before this traveller consulted him, Dr. Jacquet, that was his name, had been robbed of the savings of twenty years. Through Russian influence at the Shah's court, the doctor finally was indemnified by the Persian government, although a man who died under the infliction of punishment, to make him expose his accomplices, swore upon the Koran that Sertip Ferz Ullah Khan had directed the robbery. In this ancient town of Hamadan, called by the Jews Arphaxad, are the still existing tombs of Esther and Mordecai.

Modern Sampsons. — In a trial of strength, at Troy, N. Y., Carl, the strongest man in America, fairly beat James Madison, the cast-iron man. A paving stone was placed on Madison's breast and broken with sledge hammers. He held an anvil weighing 214 pounds upon his breast, while two men struck upon it with sledges; held an anvil upon each knee; broke a number of stones with his fist; bent a bar of iron $\frac{1}{4}$th of an inch thick, by striking it over his arm; and held an anvil weighing 200 pounds upon each arm, while men struck upon it with sledges. Carl did all these things, and more, letting two men take hold of his hair, while he whirled them about, top fashion, until their feet stuck out at an angle of forty-five degrees.

Life in the Learned Professions. — At a meeting of the Statistical Society in London, an eminent physician read a paper "On the Duration of Life among Lawyers." This document was a sequel to papers on the duration of life among clergymen and medical men, which were read before that Society in previous years, and which were subsequently printed in the Society's Journal. The facts were derived from the best sources, and confined to persons who had reached some eminence in the profession. It appears that of those members of the clerical, legal and medical professions, who have attained the age of fifty-one, or upwards, the average ages were as follows: — From the Biographical Dictionary — Clergy, 69.48; lawyers, 66.5; medical men, 70.94. From the Annual Register — Clergy, 74.04; lawyers, 72.77; medical men, 72.95.

The following propositions respecting the duration of life among lawyers seem to follow from the facts tabulated by this Society:

That the duration of life among lawyers is somewhat shorter than among members of the clerical and medical professions; and that it has suffered a slight progressive decrease during the last three centuries. With regard to the members of the three professions taken callectively, it would seem that the members of these professions occupy a favorable position in respect of the duration of their lives among the educated classes. That the difference in the duration of life among these three professions is not considerable, as it amounts to from a year and a quarter to four years and a half, according to the class of facts selected for comparison. That the members of the medical profession appear to be longer lived than those of the clerical and legal professions.

Monstrosity. — A heifer, two years old, belonging to Col. John Moore, of North Anson, Me., on Wednesday last, was delivered of a calf which had two heads. There was a complete separation, back to the neck, forming two distinct heads, with ears, eyes, and everything perfect in each. The swallow from each united at the throat, and also the windpipe. The body and neck up to the throat, were as usual. The calf was dead.

Old Age in the Old Colony. — Died in Duxbury, Mass., Capt. Reuben Drew, aged 90 years, 4 months.

Also, Mr. James Weston, 94 years, 7 months.

Capt. Drew leaves a brother and four sisters, whose respective ages are as follows — 88 years; 86 years, 8 months; 77 years, 9 months; 75 years, 5 months; and 73 years; making a total of 491 years, 2 months, in a family of six; a very remarkable case of longevity in one family, not a death having occurred for a period of 35 years.

There are also a number of persons living, in the town, who have passed the age of 85 years, and some few who are upwards of 90 years. Among them, Capt. Henry Chandler, now nearly 93, who is remarkably active, and walks to and from his church every Sunday, in pleasant weather, a distance of nearly two miles. And at the present time, there is one woman in the alms-house, whose age, as nearly as can be ascertained, is 107. She retains her faculties to a remarkable degree.

In a period of two years, since the settlement of the present pastor of the Unitarian Society, he attended the funerals of twenty-six old people, whose united ages amounted to a trifle more than *two thousand years.*

Death from Joy. — The individual who gained the prize of £4,000 at the March drawing of the shares issued by the city of Paris, for the loan of improvements, was a scavenger. His wife, when she heard of his unlooked-for fortune, fell dead of extreme joy. Her husband was less affected by his luck, and he has bought the stock and the good-will of a perfumer. Another instance was that of a poor non-commissioned officer, charged with the duty of reading out a list of promotions in his regiment to his comrades. He had not the least idea that his own name was among the number, and when he came to it he pronnnced it mechanically, and then suddenly grew pale and expired.

Advanced Age. — Samuel D. Grimes died quite recently in Pike County, Georgia, at the age of *one hundred and ten years*, always having been in good health.

Death from Fright. — A fine, spirited horse, in Pennsylvania, on hearing the approach of the locomotive and cars, on a railroad over which he was crossing, with his owner on his back, reared several times, and fell down dead.

Wearing Veils. — Curtis, a celebrated writer on sight, says that the wearing of veils permanently weakens many naturally good eyes, on account of the endeavors of the eye to adjust itself to the ceaseless vibrations of that too common article of dress. Ladies, then, should beware of hiding their pretty faces with veils.

Weary of Life. — There were fifty-two suicides in Philadelphia during 1856, of which thirty-five were men and seventeen women. Poison and drowning were the means chiefly employed by women, while the men resorted to those that were more violent.

Fossil Remains. — Ten feet below the surface, the complete skeleton of a buck was found, at Nashville, Tennessee.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Dr. Bunting is still travelling through the country with Alexis St. Martin, exhibiting the phenomena of digestion to medical gentlemen. St. Martin's open stomach is as great a curiosity now, as when Dr. Beaumont published the results of his observations on the same remarkable individual.

Assistant Surgeon Dr. Herver, of the Navy, has resigned.

Dr. R. I. Patterson, of Columbus, Ohio, has been appointed superintendent of an institution for the education of idiots, in that city.

Dr. Gale, an examiner in the Patent Office, has resigned.

Dr. Ezra Parmenter has been appointed inspector of drugs at the Custom House in Boston.

The National Medical Convention, at its late meeting in Nashville, appointed one of its principal committees, that on prize essays, exclusively of citizens of the District of Columbia. The committee is as follows: Drs. Grafton Tyler, J. C. Hall, J. F. May, Thos. Miller, A. J. Semmes, J. Riley, and —— Duhamel. The committee of arrangements for the next annual meeting, to take place at the Smithsonian Institution during the first week of June, 1858, consists of Drs. Lindsley, Boyle, Duhamel, Coolidge, Dove, Garnett, and W. P. Johnson. One of the secretaries of the Association is Dr. A. J. Semmes, of Washington.

Dr. Algerson S. Garnett, of Virginia, has been appointed an assistant surgeon in the Navy.

Public opinion appears to have settled down

upon the theory that the National Hotel sickness at Washington, had an origin in the mephitic gases escaping from imperfectly contructed sewers.

No epidemic is known to prevail at this time, in any section of the United States.

There are now sixty-nine homœopathic practitioners in New York, and twenty homœopathic pharmacies. The city of Brooklyn has forty homœopathic physicians. Nine hundred and sixty-seven patients were prescribed for at the central homœopathic dispensary, No. 15 East-Eleventh St., New York, in the year ending in April last.

Dr. George B. Coggswell, of Bradford, Mass., has been appointed physician at the State Alms House in Bridgewater, in Place of Dr. Ruggles, resigned.

Dr. George Blackwell has been appointed to the Cumberland, now at the Navy Yard, Charlestown, as fleet surgeon to the African Squadron.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, JUNE 3, 1857.

LABORS OF PHYSICIANS.—How rarely they have a respite from the labors and responsibilities that pertain to their vocation. A physician's position, reputation and prospects depend entirely upon his individual efforts. He cannot employ an assistant whose services are equally satisfactory to his own exertions. Merchants may have clerks and factors to transact their business; and clergymen invite others to their pulpits when they are out of health, or propose travelling. Not so with the ordinary medical practitioner. If he simply journeys for a few weeks to recruit an exhausted frame, or by some misfortune is unable to visit his patients, his income stops with his inability to give attendance in person. In short, there is not a pursuit in the arts, in trade, agriculture, or in the still wider range of handicraft, in which there is such entire confinement to a circle of specific dimensions, like that in which the faithful physician is absolutely obliged to move.

Those who continue to the close of life devoted exclusively to their daily professional routine, see less of the wide world than other men. But very few conscientious physicians, dependent exclusively on the avails of their industry for support, have much personal knowledge of the country or institutions of society a few hundred miles from their residence, for the good reason that they never find it convenient to leave home, without extreme detriment to their every-day interests. Some one is too sick to leave, or an event is constantly liable to occur, in which his services are bespoken, and hence he is doubly bound to stand fast upon his vantage ground.

When a surgeon, or general practitioner, after years of unrelaxing devotion to his profession, has built up a reputation, he is in no better condition for relaxing from the severities that belong to the character he has established. If eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, a ceaseless readiness for a call, night or day, in fair as well as in foul weather, characterizes the life of the modern American physician and surgeon.

Some acquire property, but not frequently by the profits of their practice, although apparently earning large sums. No mistakes are more gross than the estimated incomes of eminent professional men in cities. From ten to thirty thousand dollars, annually, are not unfrequently the assumed revenues of some few prominent practitioners. If it were true that they were actually in the receipt of such prodigious sums, they would rival the most daring and successful merchants. But in the settlement of the estates of such reputed favorites of fortune, their fortunes are by no means colossal. Outgoes are invariably proportioned to the income, and those who do the most at a profit, spend the most also, in order to maintain the requisite state to command a continuance of the pecuniary flow.

Those who have the courage to retire when they have accumulated enough to meet the ordinary demands of butchers, bakers, tailors, &c., are few, compared to the whole. Some are influenced by the love of the profession, or a philanthropic spirit for doing good, and a determination to live and die at the top of the pedestal reared by their own enterprise, and remain in the harness long after they have arrived at a point where they might indulge in the luxury of travel, general literature, or the culture of some favorite branch of agriculture.

It is a grand consideration to know when to withdraw from the drudgery of professional activity. Some have no castles in the air to construct, when they have leisure. Others have no propensity for explorations; while there are those whose only happiness consists in accumulating and toiling on in an endless path, hedged on either side by human sufferings, till death interrupts their further worldly progress.

Being born to a position, accompanied by a fortune, is becoming more of a common occurrence than in the early history of this country. Cities begin to abound with this class of fortune's favorites. It is a natural result of successful trade; and a wealthy father, who commenced a handcartman, leaves his son, an educated gentleman, inducted into one of the learned professions—more frequently that of medicine than otherwise—surrounded by all the moneyed appliances for which some are toiling with ardent aspirations to the end of their existence, without even obtaining a competency.

But the men of mark, those who will leave the evidence of their being on the earth, be spoken of and identified with the history of the times, the epochs of successive ages, as contributors to the commonwealth

of knowledge, and benefactors of the race, are rarely born with a silver spoon in their mouths. No; they are the economists of hours and minutes. They treasure up facts and occurrences, chronicle the processes of their own minds, and comment on the circumstances, attainments, proclivities, minds and deeds of those who were moving onward on the highway of humanity at the same period.

There is but little mental energy worth noting without the stimulus of physical necessity. Therefore, those are not always to be envied who seem to have been ushered into conscious life merely to inherit possessions, which they never had the capacity for acquiring by the exercise of their own powers.

The physician who does his whole duty, leads a life of hardship, for which he is but poorly requited.

Science of Despotism.—In the kingdom of Dahomy, the one man power is very clearly defined, and reduced to a royal science. He rules there, and the people are ruled. His Majesty is every inch a King. His meals are always taken alone, and it is a crime punishable with death to look upon him when he is partaking of them. He is absolute proprietor of the land, the people, and every thing in the country. All the women are his absolutely, not those native-born only, but all taken in the wars that he is ever waging on his neighbors; no man can have a wife unless she is obtained by purchase or bestowed upon him as a reward of bravery. The king himself the three thousand wives, and it is well known that many will be sacrificed at his death. The women of has country are distributed once a year, and when sold (which is always the case except when given as rewards of merit) it is always for a fixed price. Most of the stouter women are reserved for soldiers, and the number in the army, at present, is about five thousand.

Wire Gauze for Splints. — Any thing novel will answer for a paragraph, but any thing will not answer for a surgical splint. However, wire gauze bandages have been shown in London. Flattened copper wire, — made flat in the web, — cut to any particular shape, acts in the twofold capacity of splint and bandage. But, after all, the whole plan is more nice than wise, and by no means economical, since a padding under the wire is necessary to protect the surface of the limb from the hard, unyielding, metallic plate, and to absorb and hold the cold water or solutions usually applied to keep down the inflammation when too intense. The old surgeons, with a shingle, which they converted into extemporaneous splints, in an emergency, managed broken limbs quite as successfully as the modern operators, with all their patented apparatus. There is beginning to be too much machinery in the practice of surgery. A little more confidence in Nature, and less interference with her laws, is decidedly advantageous for the patient.

Army Surgeons. — At a recent meeting of the Army Medical Board, the following persons were appointed Assistant Surgeons: — Dr. Robert Bartholomcy, of Maryland; James C. Bailey, Penn.; T. Cooper McKee, of New York; Kenly Ryland, Missouri, and William A. Carswell, of South Carolina.

MARRIAGES.

In Boston, Mr. Charles H. Wheeler to Miss E. C. Ayres, daughter of the late J. C. Ayres, M. D., of Boston.

Nathan Allen, M. D., of Lowell, Mass., to Miss A. A. Waters, of Beverly.

At Fayetteville, Ark., Lieut. Brooks, of the Army, to Miss M. B., daughter of Dr. C. H. Deane, of Fayetteville.

DEATHS.

At Washington, Dr. Charles S. Trailey, chief Clerk of the Land Office.

At Sacramento, California, Dr. J. S. Hill, late of Massachusetts.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 23.

Thomas Quinn 34 yrs., Thomas Pratt 77 do, Harriet Welsh 76 do., Honora Burns 21 do., Henry S. McKean 47, William Carter 25 do., Nepomuk Meroth 34 do., James Duffy 9 mos., Waldo W. Thomas 41 yrs., Charles Baldwin 47 do., Sally G. Howe 82 do., Julia Rooney 30 do., William H. Babson 40 do., William H. Walker 9 do., Phinette E. Whitcomb 22 do., William W. Griffin jr. 4 mos., Mariana Creny 16 mos., Angeline Crane 38 yrs., Emily A. Parkin 3 do., Fanny Norton 43 do., Mary A. Sewell 24 do., Alice McCarty 28 do., Thomas Cotter 5 do., Ann Murray 14 do., Ellen Vail 63 do., David Fisher 32 do., Mary K. Quincy 45 do., Georgiana Wigley 2 do., Timothy Lyons 15 mos., Robert Cummings 15 do., Timothy Buckley 16 do., Elizabeth Fitzpatrick 46 yrs., Catharine S. Smith 83 do., Catharine Doherty 3 do., Edward Ryan 36 do., Rodolph Brotpech 18 mos., Hannah K. Gray 16 do., Frank H. Starkweather 26 days, Unknown female child 10 do., James McDonough 3 mos., George G. Long 24 yrs., James Bohan 2 do., Hannah Riardon 2 do., Hannah Nute 44 do., William Hagerty 11 do., James Brown 1 day, Bridget Lynch 1 do., Henry Flusk 15 mos., Patrick Donohoe 3 do., Ann McKean 2 ys., Ann Santry 4 do., James Collins 3 do., Mary Dugan 20 do., Edward E. Gay 1 day, Henry J. Towers 2 mos., Mary W. Hayward 24 yrs., James W. Howard 31 do., Emma Pierlot 16 mos.

Diseases.—Accident 2, apoplexy 1, inflammation of bowels 1, diseases of brain 1, bronchitis 1, burned 2, consumption 10, convulsions 6, cancer 1, croup 4, dysentery 1, dropsy 2, dropsy in head 1, infantile diseases 4, unknown do. 3, epilepsy 1, scarlet fever 4, disease of heart 1, inflammation of lungs 1, marasmus 1, old age 1, pleurisy 1, palsy 2, rheumatism 1, suicide 1, teething 2. Males 29, females 29. Total 58. 46 were born in the United States, 7 in Ireland, 2 in British Provinces, 3 in other foreign places.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE

MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME II. JUNE 10, 1857. NUMBER 11.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

NASHVILLE, May 5, 1857.

The Association met at 11 o'clock, in the Representative Hall of the State Capitol, the President, Dr. Zina Pitcher, of Michigan, in the chair, and upon his right Dr. W. K. Bowling, of Tennessee, one of the Vice Presidents. Dr. Wm. Brodie, of Michigan, and Dr. R. C. Foster, Secretaries, were present.

The meeting having been duly organized, the first business in order was stated by the Chair to be the reception of the report of the Committee of Arrangements.

Dr. C. K. Winston, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, on behalf of the committee, and of the Medical Profession of the city generally, extended a sincere and cordial welcome to the members of the Association, in a few pertinent and appropriate remarks, as follows:

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the American Medical Association:—This, I believe, is the tenth annual meeting of this Association. As chairman of the Committee of Arrangements and Reception, I am charged with the agreeable duty of welcoming you to the State of Tennessee and the city of Nashville. I only regret that I have not language to express this sentiment with sufficient cordiality. I only add, gentlemen, in common phrase, "You are more than welcome."

You are the representatives of a profession distinguished alike for its antiquity, its scientific attainments, and its usefulness. It constitutes the true link between science and philanthropy,—science and philanthropy, moral, intellectual and physical. You come from every portion of this glorious republic — from the Kennebec to the Rio Grande — from orange groves and golden sands — from mountains clad in eternal snow, and valleys smiling in perpetual verdure. You come not for purposes of self aggrandizement or personal ambition, nor yet, to advance the schemes of parties or stir up the antipathies of sections. "You know no North, no South, no East, no West;" but you come as a company of philanthropists, a band of brethren, that you may pour the acquisitions of another year into a common treasury, kneel side by side at a common altar, and drink the living water as it gushes from a common fountain. You have come to maintain the dignity, to elevate the ensign, of a profession to which you have devoted your lives, and to which you have linked your fortunes.

You are the cultivators of a profession eminently progressive, and admitting to the fullest extent the spirit and genius of enterprise. So much may not be so fully said of others. Who could expect at this, or any other day, to embellish the Commentaries of Blackstone, or improve the pleadings of Chitty, or repoise the scales of justice? Where are the men with commissions never so divine who would attempt to recast the logic which made Felix tremble, or adorn the doctrine of justification by faith? Who hopes now to shed additional light in the pathway to the skies, or sing in strains more immortal than the triumphs of the cross? Not so with Medicine — yours is a rising orb, magnificent in its proportions; while others have reached the zenith, yours has but begun to mount the heavens — while others have begun to fade, yours knows no eclipse, nor decline. You revere the names of Hippocrates and Sydenham, of Brown and Cullen, with a host of others; you treasure up their maxims, and admire the genius with which they struck out new truths, but you acknowledge no *master*, you fall down at the feet of no *Gamaliel*. You have come to the day of free thought, of free investigation, and free speech.

You call in question the most hoary, as well as the most recent fact, and you are daily revealing, in floods of light, principles hid from the foundation of the world.

You are eminently the students of nature. While others may be led along dubious paths by mortal pedagogues, your teacher dwells in the realms of eternal light, and guides with hand unseen and unerring to essences and first causes. The formative crystal and germinal dot are alike transparent before you. You are taught the mysteries of the living principle, the scalpel and retort are your companions, while you revel in the wonders of the microscopic world. You understand, somewhat, the laws by which a mote or a mountain is formed, a monad or a man is made. The spear of grass which lifts its head in the distant solitude, the lordly oak and imperial cedar, instruct you, while air and earth and sea, with the creeping multitude, yield treasures at your command.

You are the veterans of a thousand battle fields, not of mortal strife where man meets man in sanguinary conflict; but where a secret and impalpable foe—a tyrant who has reigned from Adam till now,— disposes his secret forces and directs their deadly shafts. When others have turned back affrighted and aghast, you, single-handed and alone, have met "the pestilence which walketh in darkness," and the destruction "which marcheth at noonday," despoiled them of "the armor wherein they trusted," and have driven them, ignominious, from the field.

Were the victories which you have won, the conquests which you have achieved known, you would be crowned with laurels more unfading than those which entwined the brows of Greek or Roman conquerors.

But more and better than all, you are the lovers of your race, the friends of humanity. Scattered about all over this happy land, you empathically "go about doing good." Your hearts beat in unison with human woe — your ears are open to the cry of human distress, whether it come from the hovel or palace — you "wipe away the orphan's tear and cause the widow's heart to sing for joy" — upon your heads daily descend "the blessings of those who are ready to perish."

To such a body of men, thus actuated, thus coming, we extend a cordial welcome. We feel honored by your presence, and expect to be improved and elevated by your intercourse. We throw wide our doors and invite you to the hospitalities of our homes, and to the kinder affections of our hearts.

Dr. Winston then proposed that the roll of delegates, who had registered their names, should be read. The roll having been called, it appeared that twenty States were represented.

On motion of Dr. C. K. Winston, Drs. Felix Robertson, J. Shelby, and J. Overton were made permanent members of the Association.

The number of delegates who had then registered their names was found to be one hundred and forty-six.

The following list comprises the names of of all delegates, permanent members, and members by invitation, in attendance:

Connecticut.—Charles Hooker.

New Hampshire.—Adoniram Smalley.

New York.—James R. Wood, D. M. Reese, Geo. N. Burwell, and Alden March.

Pennsylvania.—Robley Dunglison, B. F. Schenck, Caspar Wistar, and P. Cassidy.

Georgia.—Henry F. Campbell, C. R. Walton, N. F. Powers, A. H. Means, Joseph P. Logan, M. H. Oliver, Thomas S. Powell, J. Gordon Howard, R. D. Arnold, George P. Padford, and Pike Brown.

Alabama.—G. M. Merriweather, W. P. Reese, A. F. Alexander, S. W. Clanton, W. H. Thoronton, P. C. Winn, T. Stith Malone, W. J. Bass, G. D. Norris, J. F. Sowell, and J. W. Morris.

Tennessee.— Frank A. Ramsay, James Rodgers, R. O. Currey, B. B. Lenoir, J. L. C. Johnston, Jno. M. Boyd, Geo. R. Grant, T. A. Atchison, S. S. Mayfield, J. D. Kelley, T. L. Maddin, J. D. Winston, J. E. Manlove, G. A. J. Mayfield, Richard Owen, W. P. Jones, G. F. Smith, J. S. Burford, Jno. P. Ford, Robert C. Foster, Jno. H. Callender, John H. Morton, A. H. Buchanan, James W. Hoyte, N. C. Perkins, Jno. B. Lindsley, C. K. Winston, Paul F. Eve, permanent member; W. P. Moore, Milo Smith, Wallace Estill, B. W. Avent, H. H. Clayton, H. M. Whittaker, H. B. Manlove, T. M. Woodson, A. Ewing, Robert Martin, W. K. Bowling, P. S. Woodward, R. F. Evans, Thos. Lipscomb, M. Ransom, J. A. Long, Jno. M. Watson. W. D. Haggard, Jno. S. Park, D. B. Cliff, T. G. Kennedy, T. R. Jennings, Ira Conwell, W. H. Childress, W. A. Cheatham, J. F. Towns, J. M. Brannock, B. C. Jillson, P. W. Davis.

Louisiana.—S. O. Scruggs, Robert A. New, Cornelius Beard, and E. D. Fenner.

Kentucky.—Samuel Annan, R. W. Gaines, J. B. Flint, J. W. Singleton, R. J. Breckinridge, S. C. Porter, W. S. Chipley, S. M. Bemiss, L. J. Ray, W. A. Atchison, E. G. Davis, L. E. Almon.

Indiana.—W. H. Byford, W. W. Hilt, Isaac Mendenhall, T. Bullard, N. Johnson, D. W. Yandell.

Illinois.—J. C. H. Hobbs, A. H. Lace, James M. Steel, E. K. Crothers, T. K. Edmiston, W. A. Hillis.

Missouri.—S. Pollak, E. S. Fraser, John S. Moore, C. A. Pope.

Michigan.—A. B. Palmer, L. G. Robinson, Zina Pitcher, Wm. Brodie, L. H. Cobb, M. Gunn, Lewis Davenport, P. Cline, M. D. Stebbins.

Iowa.—Asa Horr, Wm. Watson, D. L. McGugin, J. C. Hughes.

Ohio.—Henry F. Koehne, J. M. Mosgrove, B. S. Brown, D. Ferris.

Wisconsin.—Hays McKinley, J. K. Bartlett.

South Carolina.—E. R. Henderson, M. S. Moore, R. W. Gibbs, R. S. Bailey.

Mississippi.—F. B. Shuford, J. S. Cain.

Arkansas.—F. Grundy McGavock.

The President then stated that it was customary to take a recess of fifteen minutes, in order that the different State Delegations might appoint a member to serve on the Committee on Nominations, and the Association took a recess accordingly for that purpose.

At the expiration of the recess the Association was called to order, and the State Delegations then reported their choice, respectively, of delegates to serve on the Nominating Committee, which was constituted as follows:

Charles Hooker, Conn.; Adoniram Smalley, N. H.; W. W. Hilt, Ind.; J. R. Bartlett, Wis.; James R. Wood, N. Y.: A. B. Palmer, Mich.; J. S. Moore, Mo.; J. K. Edmiston, Ill.; R. J. Breckinridge, Ky.; F. Grundy McGavock, Ark.; B. S. Brown, Ohio; R. W. Gibbs, S. C.; W. P. Reese, Ala.; F. B. Shuford, Miss.; Richard M. Cooper, N. J.; S. O. Scruggs, La.; P. Cassidy, Penn.; Thomas S. Powell, Ga.; J. B. Lindsley, Tenn.; Asa Horr, Iowa.

On motion of Dr. Hooker, of Connecticut, it was resolved that the President, Dr. Pitcher, be now requested to deliver his annual address.

The President then delivered the Annual Address, whereupon, on motion of Dr. Flint, of Ky., the thanks of the Association were unanimously tendered to the President for his very able and interesting address, and that it be referred to the Committee on Publication.

The Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements reported that the sessions of the Association will be held from 9 o'clock, A. M., until 2 o'clock, P. M.

Judge Catron, of the U. S. Supreme Court, being present, was invited to a seat on the stand.

The Nominating Committee then retired for the purpose of nominating officers for the ensuing year.

The report of the Committee on Publication being called for, it was read by Dr. Caspar Wistar, of Pennsylvania, and on motion was accepted and referred to the Committee on Publications.

Dr. Wistar also read his report as Treasurer, which was received and adopted.

On motion of Dr. Flint, of Ky., Dr. R. T. Fleming, of Ky., was admitted as a member of the Association by invitation.

On motion, the Committee on Essays were granted further time to make their report.

The Committee on Prize Essays being called upon to report, requested further time, because of the late hour at which they were handed in, which was granted.

The President informed the Convention that Dr. F. Campbell Stewart, of N. Y., Dr. Alden March, of N. Y., Dr. Isador Gluck, of N. Y., and Dr. Pancoast, of Penn., had been appointed to represent this Association in foreign scientific bodies.

The Committee on Medical Education was called, but made no report.

The Committee on Medical Literature was called—no report.

The Committee on Medical Topography and Epidemics being called, a communication from Dr. J. C. Watson, of Maine, was read, asking for further time to make a report, which was granted.

Dr. Arnold, of Ga., offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Committee on Nominations be constituted a standing committee during the present session of the Association, to whom shall be referred all business of the Association on which an immediate vote is not required.

Dr. James Mauran, of the Committee on Medical Topography and Epidemics for Rhode Island, being called for, the Secretary read his apology, which was accepted.

Dr. Peregrine Wroth, of same Committee, for Maryland, sent in his report, with accompanying reports of Drs. A. M. White and Edmund E. Waters, which were received and referred to the Committee on Publications.

Dr. W. F. Sutton, of same Committee, for Kentucky, sent an apology, and asked for further time, which was granted.

The members of the same committee for the

States of New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, District of Columbia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee and Minnesota, being called, no reports were made.

The delegates from Connecticut and Louisiana being absent for the time, the consideration of their reports was postponed until to-morrow.

A report from Dr. J. F. Posey, of Georgia, was presented by Dr. Arnold, and subsequently withdrawn by him for the purpose of preparing an abstract of it.

The Committee on Nominations then appeared, and through their Chairman, Dr. J. B. Lindsley, reported the following officers of the Association for the ensuing year, viz:

President—Dr. Paul F. Eve, of Tennessee.

Vice Presidents—R. J. Breckinridge, of Kentucky, D. M. Reese, of New York, W. H. Byford, of Indiana, and Henry F. Campbell, of Georgia.

And on motion of Dr. Arnold, of Georgia, the report was accepted.

The Chairman stated that the Secretaries will be selected when it is ascertained where the next meeting of the Association will be held.

Dr. Winston, of Pennsylvania, moved that a committee of three be appointed by the President to conduct the newly elected officers to the Chair, which was carried.

The President appointed as such committee, Drs. Wistar, Arnold and McGugin.

The President elect being absent, the Association adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock, A. M., to-morrow.

SECOND DAY.

NASHVILLE, May 6, 1857.

The Association met pursuant to adjournmont. The minutes of yesterday were read and adopted.

The newly elected officers were then inducted into their respective seats.

Dr. Eve, of Tennessee, in taking the chair, addressed the Association in a few pertinent and able remarks.

Dr. Winston, of Tennessee, read the names of additional delegates to the Association.

Dr. Hooker, from the Committee on Medical Topography and Epidemics for the State of Connecticut, being called on for his report, arose and explained that it was his understanding that the committee were to have three years in which to make their report, and at the end of that time he would either be prepared, or ask the indulgence of the Association for further time.

The President appointed Drs. Currey, Grant and Evans a Committee on Voluntary Contributions.

The report of Dr. Posey, of Georgia, on the same subject, being called for, Dr. Arnold, of Georgia, read an abstract of the report of Dr. Posey, all of which, on motion of Dr. Palmer, of Michigan, was referred to the Committee on Publication, under a suspension of the rule.

On motion of Dr. Wood, of New York, the reports which were presented yesterday were also referred to the Committee on Publication, under a suspension of the rule.

The State of Ohio being called upon for a report upon its Medical Topography and Epidemics, the Secretary read an apology from Dr. G. Mendenhall, who asked further time in which to make a report, which was granted.

The States of Mississippi, Missouri, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa, California, and U. S. Navy being called, no response was made.

A telegraphic dispatch from Dr. J. M. Sims, of New York, who was to report on the treatment of the Results of Obstructed Labor, was referred to the appropriate committee.

A communication was received from the Southern Methodist Publishing House, inviting the members of the Association to visit that establishment, which was received and accepted.

A communication was read by Dr. Lindsley, of Tennessee, from the Medical Association of Washington City, inviting the National Association to hold their next annual meeting in that city. On motion, the communication was referred to the Committee on Nominations.

A resolution was offered by Dr. Bartlett, of Wisconsin, tendering a vote of thanks to the late President of the Association, Zina Pitcher, for the able manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of this body, which was unanimously adopted.

The reports of Special Committees for 1856–7 being next in order, they were called in order as follows:

Inflammation—Its Pathology, etc.—Drs. E. R. Peaslee, Maine; asked further time. Referred.

Anatomy and Histology of the Cervix Uteri.—Drs. H. Hutchinson and Charles E. Isaacs, New York; no report.

Treatment of Cholera.—Dr. J. Taylor Bradford, Kentucky; no report.

Treatment best adapted to each variety of Cataract, etc.—Dr. Mark Stephenson, New York; further time asked. Referred.

Causes of the Impulse of the Heart, etc.—Dr. J. W. Corson, New York; a communication received. Referred.

Causes of Infant Mortality, etc.—Dr. D. Meredith Reese, New York, read an abstract of his report, which was referred to the Committee on Publication.

The venerable Dr. Shelby, of Tennessee, being present, was invited to a seat on the stand. His appearance was warmly acknowledged.

Dr. Hobbs, of Ill., offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That a Committee on Essays, (not including Prize Essay,) be appointed, to whom all essays prepared by members for publication by this Association shall be referred, which committee shall transfer to the Committee on Publication all essays they judge worth publishing. The said committee on essays to make a full report of their proceedings to the Association at its next annual session; provided, authors of rejected essays, being informed of said rejection by said committee, shall have the privilege of withdrawing their essays from the report of the committee to the Association.

On motion of Dr. Palmer, of Michigan, the resolution was indefinitely postponed.

The Secretary read a protest signed by Drs. Richard Arnold, J. Gordon Harvard, Pike Brown, Geo. P. Padford, against admitting the delegates from Oglethorpe Medical College. After explanations and some discussion,

On motion of Dr. Gunn, of Michigan, the protest was laid upon the table; and,

On motion of Dr. Palmer, the whole subject was referred to a committee of three to be appointed by the Chair.

Dr. Brodie, of Michigan, moved, as an amendment, that no Faculty Member of a Medical College be appointed upon the committee, which was accepted by the mover.

The Chairman appointed as such committee, Drs. Wistar, of Pa., Bemis, of Ky., and Gibbs, of S. C.

Dr. Felix Robertson, the oldest physician in Tennessee, being in attendance, was invited to a seat on the stand. He was greeted with marked consideration by the Association.

The Committee on Nominations was convened to transact important business.

The calling of Special Committees was resumed:

Spontaneous Umbilical Hemorrhage, etc.—Dr. J. Foster Jenkins, New York. Further time asked. Referred.

Use of Instruments in Obstetrical Practice.—Dr. Henry Carpenter, Pennsylvania. No report.

Measures to be Adopted to Remedy the Evils existing in the present mode of holding Coroner's Inquests.—Dr. Alexander J. Semmes, D. C. Report presented, and the following resolution offered:—

Resolved, That committees of three in each State, Territory, and the District of Columbia, be appointed, and that said committee be, and they hereby are authorized, in the name of this Association, to memorialize their respective Legislatures, to pass such laws as will best carry into effect the objects of the foregoing report.

The resolution was adopted and referred.

Treatment of the Results of Obstructed Labor.—Dr. J. Marion Sims, New York. *Previously acted upon.*

True Position and Value of Operative Surgery, etc.—Dr. J. B. Flint, Kentucky. Further time asked; granted.

Causes and Cure of Indigestion, etc.—Dr. G. Volney Dorsey, Ohio. No report.

Medical Jurisprudence of Insanity, etc.—Dr. C. B. Coventry, New York. Further time asked; granted.

Human, Animal and Vegetable Parasites.—Dr. Joseph Leidy, Pennsylvania. No report.

Value of strict attention to Position in the treatment of Diseases of the Abdomen.—Dr. M. D. Darnall, Indiana. No report.

Milk Sickness.—Dr. George Sutton, Indiana. No report.

Blending and Conversion of the Types of Fever.—Dr. Clark G. Pease, Wisconsin. Communication sent, but not received. Postponed.

Best Substitutes of Cinchona, etc.—Dr. B. S. Woodworth, Indiana. No report.

Use of Cinchona in Malarious Diseases.—Dr. Franklin Hinkle, Penn. Report furnished. Referred to Committee on Publication.

Nervous System in Febrile Diseases—Dr. Henry F. Campbell, Georgia. Verbal abstract of report given.

Laws Governing the Absorption and Deposit of Bone.—Dr. John Neill, Pennsylvania. No report.

Intimate Effects of Certain Toxicological Agents in the Animal Tissues and Fluids.—Dr. John W. Green, New York. No report.

Medical Topography and Fauna of Washington Territory.—Dr. George Suckley, U. S. Army. Report presented and referred.

Flora of Washington and Oregon Territories.—Dr. James Cooper, New Jersey. Report presented and referred.

Intimate Structure and Pathology of the Kidney.—Dr. Charles E. Isaacs, New York. Further time granted.

Diseases Incidental to Emigrants, etc.—Dr. Israel Moses, New York. No report.

Etiology and Pathology of Epidemic Cholera.—Dr. T. W. Gorbon, Ohio. Partial report presented and referred.

Excretions as an Index to the Changes going on in the System.—Dr. H. A. Johnson, Illinois. No report.

Remedial Effects of Chloroform.—Dr. D. D. Thompson, Kentucky. No report.

Best Means of Causing an Increase of the number of Essays, etc.—Committee: Drs. Leidy, Wood, and Meigs, Pa. No report. Committee continued.

Changes Produced in Composition and Properties of Milk, etc.—Dr. N. S. Davis, Illinois. Communication read and time granted.

Stomatitis Materna.—Dr. McGugin, Iowa. Further time granted.

An abstract of the report of Dr. Fenner, of La., upon the Medical Topography of that State, was then read and referred.

Dr. Dunglison, of Pa., offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That in the death of Dr. Grafton, of Miss., the American Medical Association has lost a talented and useful member, and society a benefactor.

Dr. Caspar Wistar, Chairman of the Committee upon the admission of the delegates from Oglethorpe Medical College, reported in favor of their admission, which report was adopted.

The Secretary read the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, It has pleased God to remove by death our fellow-member, Robert M. Porter, and because of his devotion to the interests of the Profession of Medicine, and his steady support of the American Medical Association,

Resolved, That this Association learned with unfeigned sorrow of his decease; and that they have lost a firm and intelligent supporter, and society a benefactor and friend.

Dr. T. Bullard, of Ind., offered the following:

Resolved, That in the death of Dr. John L. Mothersett, this Association has lost a talented and useful member, and society a benefactor.

The Secretary read a communication from the Connecticut Medical Society, asking that the time for holding the meetings of the Association in northern cities be changed to a later period in the year. Referred to the Committee on Nominations, with instructions to make a report. Adjourned.

THIRD DAY.

NASHVILLE, May 7, 1857.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The minutes of yesterday were read and adopted.

Dr. Hoyt, from the Committee of Arrangements, read the names of additional delegates to the Association, who had arrived since the meeting of the Association yesterday.

The Secretary read a communication from Dr. Clark G. Pease, of Wisconsin, which accompanied his report on "Blending and Conversion of the Types of Fever."

Dr. Hooker, of Conn., moved that the report be referred to the Committee on Voluntary Contributions.

Dr. McKinley moved to amend by having a portion of the report read, which was lost.

And the motion recurring to refer the report, it was carried.

Dr. Currey, from the Committee on Voluntary Contributions, submitted a report recommending the following papers for publication in the Transactions of the Association, which was accepted:

1st. A new principle of Diagnosis in Dislocations of the Shoulder Joint: By L. A. Dugas, M. D., Professor of Surgery in the Medical College of Ga., Augusta; accompanied by four photographic plates illustrating the principle.

2d. Medical Statistics of Washington Territory. By George Suckley, M.D., U. S. A., embracing—1st Geological Divisions of the Territory; its Geology, Meteorology, Fauna. 2. White Population and its Diseases. 3. Native population, Diseases, Medical Practice; causes of their rapid appearance. Concluding remarks.

3d. Medical Flora of Washington and Oregon Territories: By J. G. Cooper, M.D.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. O. CURREY, *Chairman.*
R. T. EVANS,
GEO. R. GRANT.

Dr. Lindsley, from the Nominating Committee, submitted the following report:

Committee on Nominations beg leave to report:

Secretaries—Robert C. Foster, of Tenn.; A. J. Semmes, of Washington City.

Treasurer.—Caspar Wistar, of Philadelphia.

For the next place of meeting, Washington City.

STANDING COMMITTEE.

Committee of Publication.—Francis G. Smith, of Philadelphia, chairman; Caspar Wistar, of Philadelphia; R. C. Foster, of Nashville; A. J. Semmes, of Washington City; Samuel L. Hollingsworth, of Philadelphia; Samuel Lewis, of Penn.; H. F. Askew, of Delaware.

Committee on Prize Essays.—Grafton Tyler, of Georgetown, D. C., chairman; J. C. Hall, of D. C., J. F. May, of D. C., Thos. Miller, of D. C., A. J. Semmes, of D. C., Joshua Riley, of D. C.; W. J. C. Duhamel.

Committtee of Arrangements.—Harvey Lindsley, chairman; W. J. C. Duhamel, Cornelius Boyle, P. H. Coolidge, G. M. Dove, A. Y. P. Garnett, Wm. P. Johnston, of D. C.

Committee on Medical Education.—G. W. Norris, of Philadelphia, chairman; A. H. Luce, of Ill.; E. R. Henderson, of S. C.; G. R. Grant, of Tenn.; T. S. Powell, of Ga.

Committee on Medical Literature.—A. B. Palmer, of Detroit, chairman; A. F. Alexander, of Al.; J. M. Mosgrove, of Ohio; P. Cassidy, of Penn.; S. Pollak, of Missouri.

Vacancies in Committee on Medical Topography and Epidemics.—T. B. Shuford to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. Grafton, of Miss. C. W. Parsons to fill the vacancy caused by resignation of Joseph Mauran, of Rhode Island.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

Spontaneous Umbilical Hemorrhage of the newly born.—J. Foster Jenkins, of New York.

Influence of Marriages of Consanguinity upon Offspring.—Dr. Bemiss, of Ky.

Functions of different portions of the Cerebellum.—E. Andrews, of Ill.

Causes of the Impulse of the Heart and the agencies which influence it in health and disease.—J. W. Corson, of New York city.

Treatment of the results of Obstructed Labor.—J. Marion Sims, N. Y.

Treament best adapted to each variety of Cataract, with the method of operation, place of election, time, age, &c.—Mark Stephenson, of N. Y.

Human, Animal and Vegetable Parasites.—Joseph Leidy, of Philadelphia.

Best substitutes for Cinchona and its preparations in the treatment of Intermittent Fever, &c.—B. S. Woodward, of Ind.

Intimate structure and pathology of the Kidney.—Charles E. Isaacs, of N. Y.

Etiology and Pathology of Epidemic Cholera.—T. W. Gordon, Georgetown, Broome Co., Ohio.

Inflammation of Cervix Uteri.—Henry H. Miller, of Louisville, Ky.

On Milk Sickness.—D. W. H. Byford.

Best means of causing an increase of the number of Essays.—Drs. Leidy, Wood, Meigs, of Pa.

Changes produced in composition and properties of Milk.—N. S. Davis, of Ill.

Stomatitis Materna.—D. C. McGugin, Iowa.

On Criminal Abortion, with a view to its general suppression.—H. N. Storer, of Boston.

The Committee recommend that the Committees ordered by the adoption of the resolutions accompanying Dr. A. J. Semmes, report be filled by the several State Societies.

On motion of Dr. Brodie, amended so as to refer the same to the officers of several State Societies; carried.

The Committee also recommend the amendment of the third article of the Constitution, in relation to *meetings*, by inserting after the words "first Tuesday in May," the words, "*or the first Tuesday in June*," and also by inserting after the words "shall be determined" the words "*with the time of meeting.*"

Special Committee on the present state of science, as regards the pathology and therapeutics of the re-productive organs of the female.—D. Fordyce Barker, of New York.

On Moral Insanity.—D. Meredith Reese, M. D., New York.

On Calculi and Disease of the Urinary Organs, in Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska.—Dr. J. C. Hughes, of Keokuk.

On the nature, tendency and general treatment of Syphilitic Bubos.—Moses Gunn, of Detroit.

On Medical Education.—(By Dr. Currey's resolution)—James R. Wood, of New York; Geo. R. Grant, Memphis, Tenn.; John Watson, New York; C. B. Nottingham, Macon, Ga.; Rene La Roche, Philadelphia, Penn.

To fill a vacancy in the Committee on Medical Topography and Epidemics.—Dr. J. L. Cabell, Charlottesville, Va.

Dr. Marsh moved that the Report of the Nominating Committee be taken up, and each

subject to which it refers be considered separately, which motion prevailed. That portion relating to nominations was then adopted.

The place of the next annual meeting of the Association being the next subject in order, after some discussion,

On motion of Dr. March, the report of the committee was adopted.

Dr. Lindsley moved that, as Dr. Semmes, one of the newly elected Secretaries, was absent, Dr. Brodie, of Michigan, be elected Secretary *pro tem.*, which was carried.

Dr. Pitcher offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed, of which the President of the Association shall be Chairman, to communicate with the Surgeon General of the Army, the chief of the Medical Bureau of the Navy, and the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, with a view to secure the concurrence of these departments of the Federal Government, so that its contributions to the Medical Topography, the Vital Statistics, and the Sanitary Police of the nation, may be made tributary to the labors of this Association.

The Chairman appointed as such committee, Drs. Z. Pitcher, of Michigan, and R. H. Coolidge, of Kansas.

Dr. Yandall offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That this Association re-affirm the principles respecting the rights of constituent bodies announced in a Report contained in Vol. V. of its Transactions in the following terms:

"The Faculty of every chartered Medical College shall have the privilege of sending two delegates to the Association, *provided* that the said Faculty contains not less than six Professors who give one course of instruction annually, of not less than sixteen weeks, on Anatomy, Materia Medica, Theory and Practice of Surgery, Midwifery, and Chemistry; and also that the said Faculty requires that its candidates for graduation, among other requisites, shall have attended two full courses of lectures, with an interval of not less than six months between them, one of which courses must have been in their Institution.

Dr. Breckinridge in the Chair.

Dr. Buchanan proceeded to discuss the resolution, and at the close of his remarks moved to lay it on the table, which was subsequently withdrawn.

Dr. Boring offered the following resolutions in lieu, which he proceeded to discuss:

Resolved, That this Association has not the power to control the subject of Medical Education.

Resolved, That the great objects of this Association are the advancement of Medical Science, and the promotion of harmony in the profession.

Resolved, That the attempt, upon the part of this body, to regulate Medical Education having most signally failed in its object, and already introduced elements of discord, any further interference with this subject would not only be useless, but calculated to disturb and distract the deliberations of the Association.

Dr. Currey offered the following resolutions in lieu of the whole subject:

Whereas, The subject of Medical Education has been committed at each annual Session to standing committees, and various suggestions have been proposed which the Association has adopted, and recommended to private instructors and to the Medical Colleges—

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by the Committee on Nominations, as a Special Committee, to be composed of members who are in no respect connected with any Medical School, to devise *a System of Medical Instruction*, to be presented for the consideration of this Association at its Annual Session in 1858.

Resolved, That the proposed system shall set forth a uniform basis upon which our Medical Institutions shall be organized, as well as have reference to the best mode of securing the Preparatory Medical Instruction to the Student; and that consequently the legitimate subjects to be embraced in said system, will include Primary Medical Schools—the number of Professorships in Medical Colleges, the length and number of terms during the year, the requisite qualifications for graduation, and such other subjects of a general character as to give uniformity to our Medical System, and preserve harmony and friendly intercourse in the ranks of the profession.

Resolved, That, upon the adoption of the proposed system by the Association, all Institutions which may conform to it shall be entitled to representation at the Annual Sessions of this Association, and none others.

The subject was further discussed by several members of the Association.

The motion of Dr. Hooker being in order, the previous question was called and the resolutions of Dr. Currey were adopted.

The Committee on Voluntary Contributions reported in favor of the publication, in the Transactions of the Association, of the following paper: "On the blending and conversion of Types in Fever:" By C. S. Pease, M.

D., of Wisconsin. The report was adopted.

Dr. Lindsley offered the following amendment to the Constitution, which was seconded by Dr. Gunn: "In Art. II. omit the words 'Medical Colleges;' and also the words, 'The Faculty of every regularly constituted Medical College, or chartered School of Medicine, shall have the privilege of sending two delegates.'"

The amendment lies over until the next meeting of the Association, under a rule of the organization.

On motion of Dr. Palmer, the resolutions reported at the last Annual Meeting of the Association by the Committee on Plans of Organization for State and County Medical Societies, were taken up and adopted.

Several resolutions were adopted, tendering thanks to the Profession and the citizens of Nashville, the authorities of the State and City, the Reporters and Publishers of the City Press, and to Dr. Wm. Brodie.

Resolved, That the State and County Societies throughout the Union be requested to recommend to their members to purchase the Transactions of the American Medical Association, and that their officers act as agents for the same.

On motion of Dr. Gunn, of Michigan, the Association recognized the presentation of a pamphlet by Henry Frazer Campbell, M. D., claiming "Priority in the discovery and naming of the Excito-Secretory System of Nerves."

On motion of Dr. Byford, the Association then adjourned *sine die*.—*Nash. Pat.*

Eclectic Medical Institute.—On the 12th of May, at Cincinnati, the following persons received the degree of Doctor in Medicine, viz :—

Joseph Barber, Illinois; Azariah Jackson Bucey, Tennessee; Branson Bywaters, Virginia; William Mack Clover, Penn.; Orson H. Crandall, Illinois; Erasmus Sigvert Dodd, Michigan; John H. Fisher, Michigan; Francis H. Fisk, Indiana; John Milton Fraim, Tennessee; Herod Dailey Garrison, Ohio; William Huston Kendrick, Indiana; Joseph Alexander Leech, Miss.; Levi Wallastine Linn, Louisiana; Joel Loomis, Michigan; Daniel Webster McCarthy, Ohio; Nehemiah Reed McGaughy, Miss; William M. Naudain, Louisiana; Willis Virgil Pratt, Kentucky; William Fellers Spivey, Texas; George Washington Stahl, Miss.; Richard Croel Tillery, Tennessee; Charles Phelps Wells, Michigan.

COMMUNICATIONS.

CURE FOR BURNS, &c.

BY WM. S. MERRELL, M.D.

The following formula was devised by me twenty-five years ago, and abundant evidence and numerous certificates, if necessary, might be adduced to show its great superiority over all other preparations in use, for the cure of *burns*, *scalds*, *chilblains*, and also of erysipelatous eruptions. I have never attempted to make a "patent medicine" of it, but now for the first time give the prescription to the public, and submit it to the criticism of the profession:

Ceratum Plumbi Anodynum.
Anodyne Cerate of Lead.
"Merrell's Fire Extractor."

℞ Emptast. Plumbi	. .	℥ 16
Ol. Terebinth. Rect.	. .	" 3
Ol. Origani	. . .	" 6
Ol. Lini	. . . .	" 2
Tr. Opii	. . . .	" 2

Melt the Emp. Plumb. and Ol. Lini together at a heat not above boiling water, add the Tr. Opii, and stir till the spirit and water are evaporated and the opium evenly diffused. Then when sufficiently cool, add the essential oils, and stir till the whole is stiffened into a smooth cerate. It should be kept closely corked in wide-mouthed bottles to prevent the evaporation of the volatile ingredients.

Application—Spread the cerate smoothly over the injured parts till the surface is completely covered (for which purpose the finger is the best instrument), and then lay over it a thin bat of raw cotton. It adheres closely, and will keep its place on any part without bandages. The raw cotton is preferable to any woven fabric, because it adapts itself to the irregularities of the parts, and admits of free motion without rucking or drawing. All smarting will usually cease in ten or fifteen minutes. This dressing should, in most cases, be left undisturbed till the healthy action of the parts is completely restored, and all soreness and tenderness removed. If the part is not blistered, this will require but a few hours, say eight to twelve. But if the cuticle is raised, and blisters are felt, the water should be let out by passing a needle through the dressing without removing it. In case, however, the burn at any points should be so severe as to entirely disorganize the tissues, so that vitality cannot

be restored to them, at such places will pain again commence after some eight to twelve hours—not the smarting of a burn, but the heavy *aching* of a wound. Then the cerate should be removed from such parts, which may be done by softening it with warm oil, and poultices applied till, by suppuration and healthy granulation, the wounds are healed.

The above prescription and treatment are founded on the following pathological views:

In injuries by heat the fluids in the capillary vessels of the skin are expanded and the coats of those vessels distended. The stimulus is excessive, and the sentient nerves give warning of the injury by the intense pain that is felt.

When the heating substance is removed or cooled down, the smarting for a few moments ceases. But there is soon a reaction, the muscular coats of the capillaries are relaxed, and their vitality partially if not wholly destroyed. They fall into a state of *atony*, and now the red blood, which is designed only for the veins proper, flows out into these capillaries, and hence the redness and turgescence which supervenes.

This red blood in its turn becomes an irritant, to the sentient nerves, which complain of this violation of the order of their organism, and smarting pain again ensues.

But this inflammation is *passive*, not *active*,—one of *atony*, not of over-action. If, however, the burning has not been carried so far as to *destroy* the organism of the parts, the vitality may be restored and the injury healed. Now how can we best do this? If we apply cold to the parts, the capillaries are contracted and the fluids thickened, and thus the blood is kept back from them, the irritation prevented, and temporary ease obtained. But this is palliative, not curative, except in small burns where by the continued application of cold water, the vessels become permanently contracted and resume their functions. But in extensive injuries of this kind, healthy reaction cannot be thus restored, and death and sloughing of the parts, if not fatal consequences, would ensue. Another course must therefore be pursued. We must *stimulate* the prostrated tissues to such a point as will enable the vital powers to resume their action, and the capillaries to perform their proper functions, and we must keep up such stimulus till such action is established. This is done by the ordinary medical treatment, of dressing the parts with oil and lime, or with white lead and spirits of turpentine, or with some of the many liniments or embrocations which are recommended as certain cures for burns. It is done in small burns by holding the part to the fire till the "fire is drawn out," and by various other means, all accomplishing in a more or less perfect manner the same object.

But they do not accomplish the object in the best manner. They all have to be *removed*. When the suspended vitality is restored by their stimulus, or in common parlance "the fire is taken out," they must be replaced with poultices or some emollient dressings. Such removal often abrades and injures the new tender tissues, and the injured parts are repeatedly exposed to the air, which, especially to those denuded of the cuticle, is an injurious irritant.

The above cerate entirely obviates these objections and better accomplishes the end desired.

1st. The Diachylon plaster and oil form a sedative, unirritating coating, that adheres closely and keeps its position, and perfectly protects the surface from the air.

2d. The essential oils stimulate the vascular tissues and restore their vital action, but being entirely volatile, as that vital action is more and more perfectly established, this stimulus is gradually diminished, (and not all at once removed as in case of other popular dressings) —until the oils, being dissipated by the warmth of the parts, an emollient soothing dressing remains to perfect the cure. Instead of having to change the dressing, the dressing gradually changes its own character just as the indications of care require.

The opium is added to allay the nervous irritation and the quicker to remove the pain.

Other essences of oils might doubtless be substituted, and other compounds devised, founded on the same principles, but we doubt if any will surpass, if they can equal this.

This cerate is equally applicable to frost bitten parts and chilblains, where the pathological condition is almost identical with that of scalds.

It is also found valuable in erysipelatous eruptions, and indeed is applicable to all affections of the skin accompanied by turgescence and *smarting* pain.

Antiquity of Small Pox. — Under the term *djidri*, this awful disease is believed to have been known to Aharoun, 622 years before the Christian era, in Arabia. About 740, it had a foot-hold in Egypt, from whence it was transported over the globe.

SUFFOLK DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The Monthly Meeting of this Society for Medical Improvement was held at their room in Temple Place on Saturday evening, May 30th; and, for once, there was a full meeting *without a supper*. The reason for this good attendance will appear in the sequel. Dr. Channing, the President, was in the chair, and Dr. Homans, Jr., the Secretary, in his place.

After some remarks upon the treatment of *Hemorrhoids* by surgical operations, by Drs. Lyman and Cabot, the names of most of the members present were called, and, as they had no cases to name for the consideration of the Society, the Herculean labor of the evening was commenced, namely, the consideration of the Report of the Committee upon Criminal Abortions. This Report had been presented at a former meeting, but laid upon the table and printed for the use of the members. It had been noticed in the Boston Medical and Surgical *Journal*, and somewhat severely criticised by a correspondent, signing himself B. Dr. Storer, Jr., the chairman of the Committee, made some remarks, and read those portions of the Report which he wished adopted, (leaving out the laws, which the original Report contained,) to be recommended to the Massachusetts Medical Society, and from them to the next Legislature, if they saw fit. Instead of these drafts of Laws, he offered several Resolutions to be presented to the parent Society, the substance of which was, that the Suffolk District Society consider these abortions a very wicked thing, and ask the parent Society so to consider them, and to request that Society to take action upon the subject by requesting the next Legislature to pass such laws respecting the matter as they may deem expedient.

This was an improvement upon the former report, inasmuch as it left the law-making business in the hands of those to whom it properly belonged.

But, as this was, in effect, *a new report*, and, as it was difficult to trace the parts which were left out, and those which were retained from the former Report, Dr. Buckingham moved that this new Report, with the Resolutions, be laid upon the table, and printed, to be acted upon at a future meeting.

Dr. Storer, Sen., was very much surprised that any member of the Society should hesitate for a moment to adopt this Report. He assailed, with considerable severity, the following sentence, in the *Journal* of May 28th, 1857: "Argue as forcibly as they may, to their own satisfaction, the committee will fail to convince the public that abortion in the early months is a crime, and a large proportion of the medical profession will tacitly support the popular view of the subject." He (Dr. Storer, Sen.,) was surprised that any member of the profession should write thus, and especially, that the man who would make such a statement should not put his whole name to the article, instead of signing it B. He thought he was bound so to do, that the public might know who he was. He had run his eye over the B's in the Society, and could think of no one that would have done it, except a man by the name of Brown, who had been expelled. He was equally surprised that the editors of the *Journal*, whom he held responsible for all that was published in it, should have admitted an article containing such immoral sentiments, &c.

This brought Dr. Morland, the senior editor of the *Journal*, to his feet. He should not be accused of entertaining such sentiments by any man, as had been imputed to him by Dr. Storer, &c.

Dr. Lyman defended the editors of the *Journal*, and thought Dr. Storer in the wrong.

Dr. Buckingham, (with no small share of the dauntless courage of his father, in the days of the "New England *Galaxy*,") arose and said he was the author of the article in the *Journal*, and he did not shrink from assuming the responsibility of all that was there said. He believed it was all true, and was ready to defend it; and that it contained no such sentiments as Dr. S. had tried to make it contain, &c.

Dr. Storer read it again, and renewed his former statements.

Dr. Cornell hoped the motion of Dr. Buckingham would pass; not that he had any objection to the Report, but for the following reasons: first because this was a new report of the Committee, with Resolutions, and he wished to read them, in order to know exactly what he was voting for; and, secondly, because there was ample time to attend to the matter, as "the Great and General Court" had once more, after a session of one hundred and forty-six days, adjourned, this day, and there would be some respite before they came together again. After still further discussion, Dr. Buckingham, by leave of the Society, withdrew his motion.

Dr. Cornell then moved that the report of the Committee be accepted.

Dr. Lyman asked, if by accepting the re-

port, we adopted it? Dr. Cornell replied No, but by accepting the report, we simply received it as the property of the Society and discharged the Committee. Dr. Buck, (who is always posted up on Rules and Regulations,) said, that by "Cushing's Manual," accepting a report was adopting it. Dr. Cornell replied, that this was not in accordance with Jefferson's Manual, nor with the practice of the Senate of the United States, nor with that of deliberative bodies generally. Dr. Buck replied that this made no difference, for the Society had voted, at its organization, to follow "Cushing's Manual." Dr. Cornell said, if such was the case, then, he was down, for he had supposed the Society had never followed anybody.

While this question was pending, Dr. Durkee was calling for the reading of the Resolutions. But this was ruled out of order, (as it evidently was,) the Resolutions not being at all then under consideration. After an expression of various opinions, (sometimes half a dozen speaking at once.) the report was accepted.

Then came the adoption of the Resolutions.

Dr. Durkee thought this Society had no cause to vindicate its character upon the subject of Criminal Abortions, as that already stood fair before the public upon this point, in the fact that they had already expelled Dr. Caulkins for such practice. He thought we were under no obligations to take the lead in questions of moral reform, and hoped the whole matter would be indefinitely postponed.

Dr. Putnam said it would be of no use to carry this question to the Massachusetts Medical Society, as the Society had a standing vote that prohibited them from acting upon such questions.

Dr. Storer, Sen. said the Suffolk Society had appointed the Committee, and they had given much time to the consideration of the subject, and he thought it was not honorable to them to postpone the matter. It was making a cat's paw of the Committee.

Dr. Clark moved that the Resolutions be acted upon *seriatim*, which motion prevailed.

The first Resolution was then adopted, 19 voting for it, and 17 against it.

The second Resolution was rejected by about a similar vote.

The third Resolution was adopted, and so they were sent up for the action of the Messachusetts Medical Society at their next meeting. The same Committee that had prepared them was appointed to present them to that Society.

Thus ended the farce for the present, perhaps to be acted over by the parent Society; perhaps to spring up, at a future time, in this. The whole subject will amount to about as much as the annual tinkering of the fee-bill of the Boston physicians, which the senior editor of your journal, sometime since, compared, not inaptly, to pointing wooden guns.

The fact is, there is no necessity, not the slightest, for any more law upon the subject. The law now is strict and severe against the practice, and the penalty high for the offence; but who ever knew of a conviction under it? The maximum penalty now, by the present law, is twenty years imprisonment in the State prison; and is not that sufficient? But if it were ninety-nine years, or death, it would make no difference. The difficulty is not, then, in the law, or in not having law enough: Heaven knows we have laws enough, on all subjects, and ten times enough. But, the difficulty is, in getting the proof, which never has been found to result in a conviction. The Suffolk District Society, and the Massachusetts Medical Society, and the Legislature may make laws and rules till the day of doom, but they can make none that will produce the proof of the deed, and, till they can do that, they may as well be quiet about laws, and exert such moral influence as they can to prevent the evil. The reform must begin here.

However, the subject will bring some men prominently before the Medical Society of Massachusetts, perhaps before the Legislature, to be sent home with a flea in their ears — and, possibly, before the world as great practitioners, and greatly desiring moral reform. *Sic transit gloria mundi.* MEDICUS.

P. S. — I forgot to name above, that one doctor stated that a female physician had been travelling up and down Cape Cod, teaching the ladies that it was not immoral to produce abortions, and how it could be done! Will not such female doctors also teach the ladies how to escape the laws recommended by male doctors, and made by male legislators? "*Montes laborant; ridiculus mus nascetur.*"

Advanced Age. — Mary Swain recently died at Longacoming, Camden, N. J., at the advanced age of 103 years, 4 months and 24 days. She was familiar with the principal revolutionary incidents of New Jersey, and was an active co-worker with the patriotic ladies of that day, in contributing to the wants of the army and the comforts of the soldier.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

A woman in the city of Mexico, on the 19th of April, gave birth to seven male children.

Under the head of "Spiritualism and Seduction," the Chicago papers publish an account of a spiritual medium of the female sex foully murdered by another medium, her paramour, in attempting to destroy evidence of the mutual guilt of the parties.

Dr. George Blacknall goes out surgeon of the U. S. frigate Cumberland, for the African station.

Dr. Marcet, of London, has invented a contrivance for inflating the lungs, in a case of drowning, for example, which promises to be of utility. It is a double cylinder, into which air is compressed. A slender tube inserted into one of the nostrils, enables the operator to inflate and go through the process of respiration and expiration. On asphyxiated dogs it proved eminently successful, and of course would prove equally so on human beings.

Dr. Ray, of Providence, presided over the Convention of Superintendents of Insane Institutions, which the present season assembled in the city of New York.

A grant of $20,000 has been made by the present legislature of Louisiana, to the New Orleans School of Medicine.

Dr. I. V. Lansing has been made resident physician of King's Co. N. Y. Lunatic Asylum, in place of Dr. Bailey, removed.

No. XXXVIII of the British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review, republished by Messrs. S. S. & W. Wood, New York, abounds with practical matter. The publication is eminently worthy of patronage by the medical profession of this country.

Some considerable apprehension of a second visitation of cholera in the Island of Barbadoes is expressed. Two years ago 30,000 out of a population of 130,000, were swept away by that terrible disease. No section of the earth where it has raged, ever suffered such an extraordinary fatality from it.

The school of Clinical Instruction in Detroit, will open in connection with the Medical School of the University of Michigan, on the 15th of June, under the direction of Prof. Pitcher and Prof. A. B. Palmer.

The next annual meeting of the Superintendents of Lunatic Asylums, is to be held at Quebec, the second Tuesday in June, 1858.

Seven females graduated at the Penn. Medical College in Philadelphia. Two were from New England,—Deborah Drury, Mass., and Amelia Hasting, Me.

Dr. Gray, a physician, has been nominated by the liberal members of the town council, for Mayor of Dublin, Ireland.

Dr. Paul F. Eve, of Tennessee, has been elected President of the National Medical Association, for 1857–8.

Two physicians in New York complain of the newly coined cent—which being small, has in several instances been swallowed by young children.

An emigrant vessel arrived at the quarantine, New York, last week, with a few cases of small-pox. It will soon be widely spread through the interior, if vaccination is neglected.

The express train on the Erie Railroad ran of the track, June 2d, near Addison. Dr. Wm Peck, of Cincinnati, was killed instantly, and three other passengers were severely injured. The engine and cars were smashed.

Professor C. D. Lewis, of the Medical Institute of Cincinnati, had his skull fractured June 2d on the road from Wheeling, in consequence of thrusting his head out of the car window while going through a tunnel; his recovery is doubtful.

At the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society, in the city of New Bedford, June 3d, the following gentlemen were elected to office: President—Dr. Bell. Vice President—Dr. Boutelle. Recording Secretary—Dr. J. B. Alley. Corresponding Secretary—Dr. B. E. Cotting. Treasurer—Dr. A. A. Youte. Librarian—Dr. William E. Coates.

Mr. Crawford, the celebrated American sculptor, now under the professional care of Dr. Fell, of London, is thought to be improving.

Mr. Bell, of the U. S. Senate, from New Hampshire, who recently died, appears by a post mortem examination by Dr. Josiah Crosby, of Manchester, to have had a cancerous condition of the intestines—whereas, he was supposed to have some other malady, and no doubt treated accordingly. Alas, medicine, instead of being a perfect science, like other branches of knowledge, is progressive, notwithstanding the sturdy declaration of the opinionated, that there *is no mistaking symptoms!*

Dr. Biegler, of Rochester, N. Y., who has been sent to the Auburn State prison, for seven years, in consequence of causing the death of a young women by abortion, is represented to have been placed on duty in the hospital of the institution.

Yellow fever no longer exists at Rio Janeiro, at the latest news from that city. By the next arrival, it will probably be in a state of calamitous activity.

At Brattleboro', Vt., the water cure establishment is to be rejuvenated and in the care of Dr. Wosselhoeft, of Boston.

According to the report of one of the committee of the State Medical Society, charged with the duty of impressing the legislature with the importance of having a Registrar General for the State, he begged to be excused from further service, and retired in disgust.

Circulars of the Medical Schools are coming in thick as blossoms on a rosebush, setting forth the unsurpassed advantages of each particular institution. When an individual advertises the benefits to be realized from patronizing his system of medical practice, he is quickly denounced by respectable members of the profession. The fact is, there is nothing professionally or morally wrong in either case. Both are legitimate transactions, and both are enterprises which succeed profitably in proportion to the public notoriety gained through extensive advertising.

A machine has been invented in Ohio for extracting mercury out of the human body! What has become of those renowned medicated baths which were extremely fashionable a few months since, at five dollars a turn, for taking metallic poisons out of the victims of injurious medication?

No report has been published of the doings of a convention of medical editors, called at Nashville, Tennessee, some weeks ago. Was one of the objects contemplated to enlarge their subscripions?

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, JUNE 10, 1857.

Progress of Yellow Fever. — The Baltimore *Patriot*, a short time since, sounded an alarm-gun in regard to the great commercial scourge of tropical climates — yellow fever — by an intimation that it is actually travelling northward. After mentioning the fact that a quarantine convention had been held at Philadelphia, which thought quite as much of a dinner as it did of the horrible nature of epidemics, the Baltimore writer proceeds thus:—

"The sanitary history of the American continent since 1850 proves, we think, most conclusively, that we are in the midst of a yellow fever vortex, like those of 1793 and 1819. *For several years to come, the people of the seaboard cities of our country should be more than ever active in the employment of such sanitary regulations as are necessary to avert this plague.*"

This emphatic warning should not be suffered to pass unheeded. In all cities naturally salubrious, free from surrounding miasmatic influences, and only rendered subject to epidemic diseases by carelessness or neglect, it becomes a matter of the utmost moment to preserve the normal health of the inhabitants, by exercising a searching inquisition into the predisposing causes of sickness, and by the timely application of proper means of purification, *before the hot weather sets in.*"

This is very sensible, and by no means to be lost upon municipalities. But we have lived through several solemn preparations, at the public charge, for maintaining the public health, which, when analyzed, were perfect farces, played at the expense of the people. So much machinery is generally put in motion on occasions for instituting extra sanitary measures, that some indiscreet spectators are very apt to say that official eating and drinking is the modern safety valve of the community. It takes an immense number of collations, lunches, cheese, crackers, ale, cigars and fruit, to prepare the mind for grave action, when an external health department begin to deliberate. Men who never knew one disease from another, and who are no better qualified for legislating on propositions which concern the stability of public health than they would be for a mission to Cochin China, become exceedingly expert all of a sudden, and give their opinions as to what would be wise, touching sanitary law, over a bottle of champagne, like a medical philosopher of large experience.

The merchants of the United States have suffered enormously by the unnecessary detention of their vessels at quarantine stations, and in the deterioration of perishable articles of cargo, and also from falls in the market. The patience with which they have borne the hardships, might be cited by conservative politicians as a marked feature in American character — a respect for law and order even triumphing over the selfishness of mercantile enterprise and the powers of acquisitiveness. If they continue to bow in submission to future exactions having an origin in the positive ignorance of law-makers, instead of their knowledge of the natural laws of epidemics and transported miasms, they deserve to suffer.

Common sense, which is a distinguishing mental characteristic of the people on this side of the Atlantic seaboard, is altogether in advance of the science of public hygiene, if quarantines are to be perpetuated, with all their ridiculous, nonsensical accompaniments. When a vessel comes into port, if any of the crew or passengers are sick, they should be taken on shore and provided for in suitable accommodations. Should any articles of cargo be in a damaged condition to be re-

garded by the best of all tests — the olfactories of the inspecting agent — take them out, to be dried, washed, cleansed, burnt or buried, as most advisable, and give the merchant the control of the remainder forthwith, to sell, which is his legitimate business.

Those long and needless detentions of vessels at the quarantine stations below New York and Philadelphia, which have been tolerated for many years, never prevented the introduction of cholera, small-pox, or fever of any type from reaching those cities. Revenue — aye, there is the secret spring which only a few understand — is coiled up out of sight.

What are all the ships brought to for? A fee! Who has it? That is another question. The State and city treasuries are presumed to have something; but the guardians of the public health are provided with incomes perfectly startling in the aggregate, which keeps them in, though they might find it difficult to keep anything out.

No definite system appears to have been determined upon at the late Quarantine Convention, held at Philadelphia, by the delegates. Even had they agreed upon a scheme of detentions and purifications, ostensibly to keep infectious maladies of foreign regions from reaching land, it is extremely doubtful whether they would have been adopted any where. The people are not in the dark, as they have been on this subject, and it will be a long while before the Maltese plan of taking a ship's papers from the tips of the captain's fingers with brass tongs dipped in medicated vinegar, is introduced into our principal ports of entry.

Unfortunately, physicians are divided in opinion respecting contagious and non-contagious diseases; — one party believes in the possibility of fencing out yellow fever, as unruly domestic animals are kept from the wheat fields, by tangible barriers, under the euphonious name, for example, of *cordon sanitaire*, which, in plain English, means a host of useless fellows at high wages, with nothing to do but eat, drink and sleep, under the delusive idea, common both to themselves and the tax payers, that they are holding the balance of power between life and death; — that no pestilence can pass by their extreme vigilance; — that they are doing an immense amount of perilous service, *pro bono publico*, when in truth they are doing just nothing at all.

There is but one rational method of controlling diseases, and that consists in attempting to subdue them when they appear. Prescribing in advance is an absurdity; and storing bales of dry goods, pig lead, iron bars and willow baskets at a lazaretto, to be disinfected, belongs to the ignorance of a past period. When a cargo of wet hides from South America have been dried, let them pass to the tanner, but by no means detain them beyond the moment they cease to be offensive.

A quarantine physician should be clothed with one man power. His judgment, exercised in a particular line, gives him not only expertness, but accuracy in his conclusions. Health boards, sanitary committees, and above all, assistant officials to divide the responsibility with the examining physician, are an embarrassment, and a far greater nuisance than the nuisances they theoretically abate. Finally, with the exercise of a sound discretionary authority, one medical sentinel to simply inspect vessels as they arrive, is all that is necessary, and the entire abolition of all the oppressive quarantine ordinances now existing in the United States and elsewhere, would redound to the commercial advantage, as it would to the general interest of the people in all countries.

National Medical Association.—From the representation of delegates, they had an excellent meeting at Nashville. There was unbounded and elegant hospitality. From the report of the official transactions, however, there seems to have been less enthusiasm than on former occasions. To the honor of those who represented the medical sentiments of those who selected the delegates, the highest degree of decorum characterized their deliberations. Those hot-headed gentlemen who glory in making the dust fly whenever an opportunity presents, either remained at home, or concluded that discretion is the better part of valor when they are at the Sunny South. It is somewhat singular that Massachusetts had no one in the Association at Nashville. A special meeting was certainly held in Boston, and a select list of names presented and elected at a subsequent gathering of the Suffolk District to represent the medical interests of the Commonwealth. Hereafter it may be policy to choose gentlemen who could and would attend to the mission for which they might be appointed.

Connecticut, with a splendid array of medical talent, had but one solitary representative; New Hampshire only one,—while Vermont and Maine were without a voice. Does all this mean anything more than absolute indifference? All the Southern and Western States sent live men to the convention, who manifested a gratifying ambition to sustain the great objects contemplated by the national association of physicians and surgeons.

Dr. Reese's report is decidedly the most satisfactory of any that has yet been received; and much better than our own reporter's notes. Finally, matters appear to have dragged rather heavily, and the old fire that used to blaze on the altar, flickers, as though the enthusiasm that formerly animated the congregated professional wisdom of the Union was partially exhausted. We trust, however, that this is imaginary rather than real. There could be no better testimonial of the worth of the past labors of the Association, than the published volumes of papers. They are valuable American contributions to the archives of medical science. An impression that some individuals figure too conspicuously, at the expense of those who have no articles thus prominently presented, is quite ridiculous, because it would be an unjust suspicion of unfairness on the part of committees.

That abomination, criminal abortions, which has become a bone to pick in the Suffolk Medical Society of Boston, has been placed before the National Association, so that an elaborate report, to make a new lion for a future occasion, is evidently determined upon. The less said, the better. Those who covet more law than already exists upon the statutes of all the States, would unquestionably be happy to figure before legislative committees, with a view to explaining the excessive corruption of medical practitioners. An impression to that effect has been gaining ground since the report was published in Boston, of the extreme wickedness of both patients and fœtal murderers in utero. But the only result from this exposition of the evil-mindedness of the physicians in general, but none in particular, will be to notify demoralized women, far and wide, what may be done, and who are the operators; while the latter, becoming excessively cautious, defy detection.

Another matter, — medical education, which has heretofore been a never-failing topic for dull speeches tediously prolonged, was summarily dismissed. The schools continue to do as they like, regardless of the opinions of the medical sanhedrim, which some of them feign hypocritically to reverence for its peace tendencies, and peace pudding, but who send their students off with diplomas long before they are equal to Sir Benjamin Brodie, or Marshall Hall, in acquirements. Whenever circumstances allow, further comment on this National Medical organization may be expected.

Medical Society of Western New York. — A constitution, accompanied by a system of medical ethics and fee bill, makes a small pamphlet, a copy of which is acknowledged. It reads well, but the next point is to keep the members within the prescribed limits. All the medical charges are reasonable. At the present rate of subsistence, it is a query whether a medical practitioner could live by them.

President, Dr. G. W. Hazeltine, of Jamestown; Vice President, Dr. L. V. Axtel, Jamestown; Secretary, Dr. William Smith, Faloner.

Chapter 3d. article 4th, reads thus: — "Physicians ought to use all the influence which they may possess, as professors in colleges of pharmacy, and by exercising their option in regard to the shops to which their prescriptions shall be sent, to discourage druggists and apothecaries from vending quack or secret medicines, or from being any way engaged in their manufacture and sale."

So they had; but the fact is sufficiently well understood, that it is quite impossible for apothecaries to carry on business by the simple sale of prescribed medicines. Without articles for the toilet, and thousands of fancy articles, including quack remedies in large abundance, it would be difficult to pay a quarter's rent. And further, perhaps it is within the limits of probability that some very eminent sticklers for medical propriety and high-mindedness have been silent partners in the very establishments which are so properly denounced by authority. There is policy in suppressing that abominable traffic, by raising a public excitement against those audacious fellows, who assume a defiant attitude, and sell and get gain in spite of the thunderings of medical bulls. The last one who resists the blast of excommunication, may pay over a good profit to somebody behind the screen, who gets more real profit out of a shop in one day than out of his practice in a month.

MARRIAGES.

In Roxbury, Mass., Dr. J. L. Williams to Miss M. L. Williams.

Dr. Orrison Williams, of California, to Miss L. T. King, of Hartford, Conn.

DEATHS.

In Boston, Mr. Alonzo Darling, 22, son of Dr Eliakim Darling.

At Henry, Illinois, Dr. Lyman Whiton, formerly of Lee, Mass.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 6.

Maria T. Dubuc 2 yrs, Ellen Leicester 1 day, Lewis E. Averill 7 yrs, John S. Parshley 52 do, David Fitzpatrick 45 do, Catharine Fitzgerald 14 mos, John Neagle 1 day, Catharine Nolan 1 do, Charles T. Tracy 1 mo., John Garvey 8 mos, John Hincock 42 yrs, Wm Garrett 35 do, Tryphosa Bray 77 do, Joanna Shea 38 do, Mary Johnson 4 do, Thomas Danforth 69 yrs; James McLaughlin 2 do, James Gallagher 60 do, Edward Reed 35 do, Stewart R. Bailey, Patrick Kenny 20 do, Isaac Williams 58 do, Margaret Bellamy 9 do, Wm. Dean 38 do, Mary O'Hare 3 days, Mary Foley 15 mos, Arthur K. Norton 8 do, Mary A. Glines 3 days, Catharine Blake 48 yrs, Daniel Chamberlin 71 do, Jeremiah O'Brien 56 do, Mary A. Sullivan 2 do, Michael Maloney 47 do, Sarah W. Thompson 2 do, James F. Harrington 26 do, Charles Friel 28 do, Jean B. Klain 37 do, Wm. Muirhead 50, Sarah S. Raisor 33 do, Wm. Dillon 60 do, Henry Marshall 68 do, John Kane 44 do, Mary M. Richards 21 days, Julia A. Donovan 19 mos, Louisa C. Storrs 19 yrs. John Illic 69 do, Wendell P. Adams 4 do, Mary A. McGonagle 7 do Ellen Connors 58 do, Catharine Toomey 20 do, Patrick O'Flaherty 20 do, Ella F. Morse 5 do, John Clifford 1 do, Wm. C. Muhlig 21 days, Emma J. Muhlig 24 do, Mary J. Lally 7 mos, Lemuel Wood 10 do., Mary Fitzgerald 14 mos, Sarah E. McGary 5 do, David Parks 35 yrs, Mary A. Long 38 do, Lydia G. Kendall 47 do, Ann McCarty 62 do, Michael Donovan 6 do, Mary Callahan 9 do, Wm. H. McCarty 7 mos. Benedict Comari 12 do.

Diseases.—Consumption 16, convulsions 3, dropsy in head 2, infantile diseases 10, intermittent fever 2, scarlet fever 4, inflammation of lungs 2, marasmus 2, palsy 3, teething 5; other diseases 1 each, 18. Males 36, females 31. Total 67. 45 were born in the United States, 14 in Ireland, 2 in England, and 6 in other places.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE

MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME II. JULY, 1857. NUMBER 12.

LONDON PROFESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

No. II.

1*st May*, 1857.

For the fifth time in my life I saw amputation at the hip joint performed on the 28th March, by Mr. Stanley, at Bartholomew's Hospital, before an immense number of anxious spectators. It was not done in the usual brilliant manner by transfixion, which particularly struck my eye years before, when performed on the dead body during surgical demonstrations by my old teacher and friend Professor Campbell, of McGill College. The nature of the disease precluded transfixion in the present instance, as a large medullary tumor occupied the whole upper half of the thigh and terribly encroached upon the groin, so much so, as to render the operation one rather of dissection to accomplish disarticulation, than a regular amputation. An idea will best be formed of the whole proceeding when it is stated that fifteen minutes was the time, before the limb was completely severed. And then, oh! what a frightful surface was exposed, with not much to boast of in the way of flaps, being for the most part skin. When a first year's pupil, I remember well the right leg fell to my share to dissect; it was of course attached to the body, and when the superficial muscles anteriorly were roughly gone over, I took it into my head to remove the limb altogether, and did so in a most barbarous manner, severely soliloquizing with myself afterwards at such wanton destruction. The appearance of the two cases strongly resembled one another; and I felt that in Mr. Stanley's case, the stump—if it may be so called—was very different from what I had before seen in Mr. Erichsen, Mr. Curling, Mr. Hancock, and Mr. Nelaton's cases. The poor fellow died within two hours after from secondary hemorrhage. To be sure the operation was quite justifiable, but the patient might have survived some months longer without it, but that of course, as your intelligent readers are aware, is a secondary consideration altogether.

An operation not the less striking, but which more interested me was lithotomy by Mr. Fergusson, on the 11th April, upon an old man aged 59, from whom two calculi were removed, and at the same time the middle lobe of the prostrate gland which projected upwards and backwards like a valve, the size of a walnut, was excised, being caught hold of with a pair of stone forceps, and cut off with a pointed bistoury. This is a thing not before attempted by any man, and it is only such a mind as that of the operator which could suddenly conceive it. However, it took my fancy so much, as illustrating a point in relation to the treatment of an enlarged middle lobe of the prostrate, as to draw forth from me a short communication, which appeared in the *Lancet* of the 18th of April, the same number which contained a report of Mr. Fergusson's case in the "Hospital Mirror" of that Journal. The title of my note was "Cannot enlargement of the middle lobe of the Prostate Gland be removed by the lateral operation of lithotomy?"

At this moment the injection of Iodine into Ovarian Tumors, bursal cavities, sacs of cold abscesses, synovial cavities, &c., is receiving a fair trial, and so far as I have seen, promises to be pretty successful. I saw Mr. Erichsen inject a very large hydrocele the other day with pure strong tincture of iodine, with success, also an ovarian cyst, but the patient was not a suitable one for it. A case of Mr. Baker Brown's, at St. Mary's Hospital, struck me forcibly: six ounces of strong tincture of Iodine, (Ed. Ph.) were carefully injected into an ovarian cyst in a healthy female, after being first tapped, and allowed to remain in. In five minutes—Iodism set in—the saliva tasted of Iodine, and in half an hour the urine and other secretions were strongly impregnated

with it. She had to be supported with wine and brandy for twenty-four hours, and a radical cure was accomplished. I have seen other cases thus treated, but if success is to be expected, the pure strong tincture of Iodine must be used, *undiluted with water*, and allowed to remain.

The Iodine of Ammonium — a chemical much used in photography — has been introduced into Therapeutics, by my friend Dr. B. W. Richardson, the Editor of the *Quarterly Journal of Public Health*. It is quite soluble in water, not unpleasant to the taste, and a little more pungent than Iodide of Potassium. It is given in doses of from one to three grains for an adult. It possesses absolutely marvellous powers in dispelling strumous enlargements, much more rapidly than its sister salt. It has been found of great value by Dr. Richardson, in secondary syphilis, chronic rheumatism, the primary stage of Phthisis, and various forms of scrofula. It may be used also externally in the form of a liniment with Glycerine or Soap Liniment as a menstruum. It is thus easily absorbed. In this manner (a drachm to the ounce of glycerine,) he treats enlarged tonsils in children, applying it by means of a camel hair brush every night. From what I have seen and heard of this new salt from my friend, and with the experience I am already gaining of its value myself in public and private practice, I do not hesitate to prophesy the most valuable and important results from its use, and I lose no time in drawing your readers' attention to it. There has been a death lately from the administration of Amylene, but there was found hypertrophy of the left ventricle at the autopsy, and we must expect accidents of this kind to occur from almost any anæsthetic, when such diseased conditions are present. Dr. Snow gave it himself in this instance, and has used it upwards of one hundred and fifty times, without the least bad effect. Sulphuric ether is perhaps the safest thing to use after all.

You will have perceived by the papers the announcement of the death of the well-known and justly celebrated Dr. Scoresby, at his residence at Torquay, on the 21st March. He was a corresponding member of the Natural History Society of Montreal, and was an old friend and acquaintance of the Society's late Secretary, Mr. Dutton, who has often discoursed upon the Doctor's whaling voyages, which were published in 1820, in his account of "The Arctic Regions," which has proved to every Naturalist, both old and young, one of the most interesting narratives of maritime adventure ever written. I think Mr. Dutton is called upon, to bring a short sketch of Dr. Scoresby's eventful life, before the Natural History Society, and which ought to be published. I trust that this may catch Mr. Dutton's eye.

I have another death to record, but with feelings very different from those which prompted me to do so in Dr. Scoresby's case. It is the death not of an individual, but of one of the instruments of a system, which is fast on the wane, and will be shortly reckoned as one of the "strange things that were." The London Homœopathic Hospital, the last hospital devoted to this delusion in London, has closed its doors. The *Lancet* says, while recording the melancholy event, that "Like all quackeries, it has had its day: like all quackeries it has been supported, by the shallow, weak, and credulous on the one side, and the charlatan and the rogue on the other. Such alliances are invariably broken when either the eyes of the one are opened, or the capacity of the other is not gratified." Poor Lord Robert Grosvenor, the great champion of Homœopathy has confessed himself diddled, and declares he has been humbugged from first to last. He now employs a regular genuine allopathic practitioner. One Sunday when a passenger on the South Eastern Railway, who should happen to be in the same car with me, but Dr. Rosenstein, who practised homœopathy in Montreal for some years. He did not know me. I watched him for some time and found he was in an advanced stage of phthisis, the mere wreck of what he once was; his young wife and mother-in-law were in the car with him. After a while I spake a word into his left ear, which made him stir up, and he nearly fainted with delight. I parted with him shortly after. A few days later a letter reached me from Woolwich, where he is settled, telling me he could not have been better pleased at meeting an angel than having seen me, and after entering into a few details about his history since leaving Montreal, the letter concluded by asking for a loan of the needful. It was quite clear, he too had found homœopathy a delusion, as many others had done before him.

In one of my previous letters, I recounted an accident of a very fearful character in St. Katherine's Dock, in which the abdominal and thoracic viscera were forced out, with the heart lying exposed on the outer surface of the abdomen. (Page 238 of Vol. 4.) It fell

to my lot, on 23d March, to witness a most horrible scene at Charing-Cross, which was the running over of an old gentleman who had been waiting for a Clapham omnibus. He was making an attempt to cross the road in front of a Westminster omnibus, immediately in front of the horses which at that moment started to go down the incline; he was knocked down before he knew what he was about, and run over as quickly as it takes me to write the few words about it. Both wheels passed over his body, completely rupturing the walls of the abdomen and squeezing out his bowels. The shocking spectacle was one which produced a very sickening feel in every one who witnessed it. It is needless to say life was immediately extinct. No blame is attachable to the driver. People are very frequently run over at the bottom of Agar street in the Strand, where no less than five different streets meet, and the patients are generally taken into Charing-Cross Hospital.

My friend Mr. Erichsen of University College was telling me a few days ago, he had received an invitation to attend the meeting of the American Association for the advancement of Science, which is to be held at Montreal. He is much flattered by the compliment, but will not be able to go. His work on Surgery is out of print, and a new edition of which he is at this moment correcting the proofs, will be out before October. It will be in two handsome volumes, with 140 additional woodcuts. Both he and his valuable book, are well known to all the McGillites who come over here, at least those whom I chance to meet. I introduced Dr. Walter J. Henry to him, who was much taken with the Professor. If you turn out many such men as Dr. Henry from McGill College, you need not be ashamed to send them to any part of the globe. From the opportunities I had of forming an opinion, I was much pleased with him indeed, and I will take any amount of trouble to show such men as he, or Dr. John and James Stevenson what medical life is in London. I very frequently meet another graduate of the same College, and lately have been almost daily in his company. I allude to Dr. David D. Logan, formerly of Montreal, who resides at Cheltenham, and is practising there as a Physician. He, Dr. Baker of Dawlish, and myself, are the only three I believe in England who rejoice in the term McGillite, but I am glad to say not of the recreant class, an example of which you have shown up in your March number.—*Montreal Med. Chron.*

TRIUMPHS OF SURGERY.

From the *Pacific*, a paper published at San Francisco, under date of May 14th, the following remarkable case of a wound of the thorax, and the successful treatment of the patient has been extracted. We congratulate the people of that newly civilized region, on having medical and surgical men in California, who are equal to all emergencies, occasional reports of whose skill justify us in saying they are an honor to the profession.

By far the most difficult and hazardous surgical operation of which we have ever heard or read, was performed in this city on the 11th ult., upon Mr. C. M. Beal, of Springfield, near Sonora.

By the explosion of a gun, the breach pin was forced into Mr. Beal's left side, through the ribs, and lodged beneath the heart, where it had remained two and a half months, prior to his being brought to the city; producing effusion and purulent secretion, until the entire cavity of that side of the chest was engorged to its utmost capacity. The patient was almost in a dying state when brought to the city for treatment, and scarcely a shadow of hope was entertained of his recovery. In fact he was assured candidly by his surgeon, that he would probably sink under the knife—*possibly* not, but as death was his inevitable doom, and that speedily without an operation, he readily seized the only remaining chance of prolonging life by submitting to a trial for the removal of the foreign body.

Three of the ribs were laid bare by free incisions through the soft parts. Portions of them were then removed, when it was hoped that the foreign body could be reached and extracted, which, however, was not the case, and it was soon ascertained that the difficulties of the operation had not yet commenced. Few appeared to entertain hopes of ultimate success at this time, seeing that all the accumulated experience of the past, afforded no guide to any farther procedure. A probe five inches long had already been passed into the cavity of the chest, in various directions, and the fingers frequently placed in close contact with the palpitating heart, only separated from them by a thin membrane.

Already had the seat of life and centre of the circulation been explored beyond anything known in surgery, and yet no clue to the location of the foreign body could be obtained. The patient's countenance finally became

deadly pale, and nearly all the medical men present expected he would soon die under the knife. The daring operator, however, displaying a confidence which genius alone often inspires in times of new and great difficulties, continued the delicate manipulations, perfectly unmoved. Striking out a new method for the future guidance in similar circumstances, he terminated the operation successfully with the same composure as it had been conducted. The foreign substance was found in the following manner: A steel sound fourteen inches long was introduced in the chest, when the metal was recognized by the sense of touch communicated through the instrument. So strong was the heart's action against the instrument, that, the breach pin being covered by some of the membranes or the deposit upon its surface, the nicest discrimination could alone detect a metallic impression as imparted to the steel sound. The sound was repeatedly introduced to the distance of eleven inches. When the foreign body was found the extremity of the sound was made to rest upon it, and to answer as a guide in the process by which it was to be removed. The sound, being curved, would readily pass back of the heart without pressing upon it particularly; but the forceps, which were straight, necessarily moved its apex out of its ordinary position, in order to reach the metallic mass back of it, which, after several attempts, was finally seized and extracted.

The patient bore all these painful, though necessary manipulations, without complaint, and was not apparently discouraged at any time. This operation, which is acknowledged without a parallel, proves to be of much greater magnitude than most of the descriptions of it indicate.

The patient is rapidly recovering. On the eleventh day after, he was able to sit up in bed, and had a good appetite, and six days after that he had not an unfavorable symptom remaining.

The chief operator was Dr. Cooper, assisted by Dr. Rowell.

A Good Diagnosis. — A lady whose fondness for generous living had given her a flushed face and a carbuncled nose, consulted Dr. Cheyne. Upon surveying herself in the glass, she exclaimed, "Where in the name of wonder, doctor, did I get this red nose from?" "Out of the decanter, madam," replied the doctor.

McGILL COLLEGE.

PRIZES FOR 1857.

The annual Prizes in Medicine were adjudged at the termination of the past session to the under-mentioned gentlemen, and awarded to them during the ceremony of Graduation:

For Thesis.—Messrs. L. R. Church and D. T. Robertson. This prize was divided between these competitors, as it was impossible to distinguish between the respective merits of their separate productions.

For Final Examination.—Mr. L. R. Church.

For Primary Examination. — Mr. James Kerr.

The prizes last named are given to the students who exhibit most ability in answering questions upon the various branches, senior or junior. The examinations are oral.

MEDICAL GRADUATES, McGILL COLLEGE, 1857.—The following is a list of the Graduates in Medicine, for the current year. They received their degrees in the early part of May:

Alexander D. Stevens, Dunham, C. E.—On the Nature and Responsibilities of the Medical Profession.

Etienne R. E. Riel, Ottawa City, C. E.—Lyssa Canina.

Levi R. Church, Aylmer, C. E.—Arterial Hœmorrhage.

John Aylen, Aylmer, C. E. — Turberculosis.

A. C. E. Picault, Montreal, C. E.—Fracture of the Neck of the Thigh Bone.

Richard Whiteford, Three Rivers, C. E.—Corrosive Sublimate.

Henry Shoebottom, London, C. W.—Arterial Hœmorrhage.

Robert N. Shaver, Dickinson's Landing, C. W.—Abortion.

Robert Howden, Montreal, C. E.—Thoracic Aneurism.

John McMillan, London, C. W.—Inflammation of the Veins.

D. Thomas Robertson, Quebec, C. E.—Tetanus.

Andrew A. Boylan, Montreal, C. E.—Acute Articular Rheumatism.

William Wilson, Chambly, C. E.—Administration of Chloroform.

Gordon James Emery, Bowmanville, C. W.—Inflammation of the Veins.

PRIMARY EXAMINATIONS.—At the close of

the Session, 1856–7, the gentlemen whose names are subscribed passed successfully upon the primary branches, being their first examination for the degree of Doctor of Medicine, in the University of McGill College.

Mr. James Kerr,	Mr. T. Cunynghame,
" Wm. Harkin,	" Alex. Reid,
" Geo. Pattee,	" Timothy English,
" Patk. O'Leary,	" Jas. McGarry,
" Theo. Robitaille,	" Jas. S. Duncan,

and Mr. W. H. Taylor.

Materia Medica — Prize 1857. — The Professor of this department in McGill College offers annually a prize for the best essay on any subject embraced within the sphere of his lectures. The competitors were this year five in number; and as the most meritorious, the prize was given to Mr. Alex. Reid, of London, C. W., his production being one of great excellence on account of its original inquiries and experimental researches. The most interesting or novel portions will be selected for publication in our pages. Its subject is "Strychnia."—*Mont. Med. Chron.*

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

From the fact that the number of delegates in attendance at the late meeting of the American Medical Association was nothing like so large as usual, and from the failure, upon the part of the more prominent members of the profession, (with a few exceptions) to attend, it would seem that there is a waning interest in its deliberations.

The truth is, the practical working of this body clearly convinces us that elements have already been introduced into its operations, which will finally scatter it to the winds, unless more wisdom and less ambition are found in its future proceedings. As a social "re-union," and as an occasion for the presentation of contributions to science, and as an organized arrangement for the diffusion of these treasures, it has our *hearty good-will;* but as an instrument for the elevation of a favored few, and as affording an opportunity for an annual volley of abuse of the medical colleges, from disappointed aspirants for Professors' chairs, it shall ever have our *hearty condemnation.* We must confess ourselves really sick of this eternal cry about the inferiority of the medical profession of the United States. Our doctrine (and we have no hesitation in stating it) is, that the medical men of this country are fully as good as the people *deserve*, or are willing *to pay for*, and with fully as large a share of practical skill in the treatment of disease, (belonging to their country) as can be found upon the globe.

In saying this much, we do not mean to be understood as contending for the position, that the system of American medical education is the best in the world; but we do contend that in the present condition of this country, you cannot support a system of a much more expensive and extended character than the present, for while it is true that many graduate and commence practice who are but indifferently prepared, they generally settle in communities who would not or could not remunerate a medical man, who had spent double or treble the time in fitting himself for his profession.

Some, more fastidious than wise, may object to the *money* view of the subject, but in this country, with the innumerable avenues to wealth, you will not find men devoting much time or money to a profession—attended at best with so many sacrifices—and affording no adequate return, in its revenue, for what has been expended upon it—this *we know* to be the fact, the prating of would-be, and over-wise *reformers*, to the contrary notwithstanding, which especially comes with a bad grace from those who are in a position to "offer medical education, without money and without price." —*Atlanta Med. and Surg. Jour.*

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, C. E.

Montreal, 12*th May*, 1857.

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Lower Canada, was held this day, when were present Drs. Fremont, Russell, Sewell, Lindsay, Jackson, Marsden, Robitaille, Boudreau, Marmette, Badeau, Turcotte, Smallwood, Chamberlin, Brigham, Sabourin, Weilbrenner, Fowler, Foster, Glines, Munro, Bibaud, Hall, Fraser, Boyer, Jones, Peltier.

Dr. Fremont, the President of the College, in the Chair.

The Secretary read the minutes of the last Semi-Annual Meeting, held in Quebec in October last, which were approved.

The President informed the Board that he had not received as yet any information from the Government concerning certain amendments to the present by-laws.

From a few remarks made by the Secretary, it was unanimously resolved that the Board should proceed with the examinations, before attending to other business of the meeting. Dr. Mortimer, a navy surgeon for the past fifty years, claimed, upon certificates from Sir W. Burnett, proving that he was really a navy surgeon, to be examined to obtain his license from the Board. After some discussion, it was decided to comply with his request.

The following gentlemen, with Degrees from the Medical Faculty of McGill College, after having taken the oath, were granted their License:

Messrs. Whiteford, Aylen, Shoebottom, Robertson, Howden, Shaver, Emery, Riel, Church, Boylan, Picault, Wilson.

Mr. Stunton received his License as Apothecary, after a satisfactory examination.

The following received their License after very creditable examinations:

Messrs. Mortimer, Ricard, O'Leary, Poisson, Bacon.

The following, after having undergone their preliminary examinations, were admitted to the study of Medicine:

Messrs. Guertin, Gravel, Gaucher, Grenier, Derome, St. Cyr, Desjardins, Vaine, Charlebois, Lafontaine, Taschereau, Lindsay.—*Montreal Medical Chronicle.*

Professional Pleasantries.

Doctor Fordyce sometimes drank a good deal at dinner. He was summoned one evening to see a lady patient, when he was more than half-seas over, and conscious that he was so. Feeling her pulse, and finding himself unable to count its beats, he muttered, "Drunk, by —!" Next morning, recollecting the circumstance, he was greatly vexed; and just as he was thinking what explanation of his behavior he should offer to the lady, a letter from her was put into his hand. "She too well knew," said the letter, "that he had discovered the unfortunate condition in which she was when he last visited her; and she entreated him to keep the matter secret in consideration of the enclosed" (a hundred pound bank-note).

"How many deaths?" asked the hospital physician. "Nine." "Why, I ordered medicine for ten." "Yes, but one would not take it."

COMMUNICATIONS.

(Communicated for The Medical World.)

INOCULATION OF REMEDIES.

Such is the title of a book published in Germany last year, by Dr. M. Langenbeck, of Hanover. This physician had come to the conclusion that in many cases of disease, especially those of a chronic nature, the long-continued use of internal medicines was in the end injurious to the patient. He therefore determined to have recourse to external applications, and, finding that the endermatic method was generally unreliable, he finally tried the introduction of remedies into the system through the sub-cutaneous cellular tissue, that is, by *inoculation.* He thus arrived at some very satisfactory and remarkable results, which he has fully set forth in the volume under notice. It is true that previous to this a French physician, Dr. Lafargue, of Saint Emilion, had already made some successful experiments with the inoculation of *morphine* in cases of neuralgia, and a description of his process may be found in the *Bull. Gen. de Therap.*, vol. 33, 1847. Still, to Dr. Langenbeck belongs the credit of first making a general application of this mode of introducing remedial agents into the human system for therapeutic purposes. The following account of Dr. L.'s mode of treatment is taken from a review of his book by Dr. Kurtz, in the *Zeitschrift fur Hom. Klinik.*

Dr. Langenbeck introduces his remedies into the system either by simple inoculation with a lancet, or by what he calls "plaster-inoculation." For the first process he uses a common lancet, such as is used for vaccination, having a blade from 1 to 5 lines in width, with a spoon shaped concavity on one side. For the *plaster-inoculation* he makes a slight incision, 3 or 4 lines in length, and deep enough to penetrate through the corium into the subcutaneous cellular tissue. This incision may be made with a lancet, or even with a common sewing needle; in fact, any solution of continuity of the skin, such as is left by a leech-bite, a recent boil, &c., may just as well be used for the introduction of the remedial agent. The plaster-inoculation is to be preferred in most cases, because it does not cause pain or fear, and subsequent manipulations can be attended to by the patient himself. With regard to the substances introduced into the system, it was found that solids were often absorbed more

rapidly than fluids; but articles in a soft solid state were generally to be prepared, because they were more easily introduced. It was only exceptionally, therefore, that such applications were made as *musk* in substance, *corr. sublimate* dissolved in water (1 part to 60), *creosote* diluted in water or alcohol.

Usually the remedy was mixed with a *vehicle* consisting of an ointment of *ung. tart. emet.* and *croton oil*, either together or used separately, with the addition of *simple cerate* or *almond oil.* (For example: *ung. tart. stib.* gr. x, *extr. bellad.* gr. vi, *al. amygdal.* scr. i; or *ung. tart. stib.* gr. x, *al. crot.* gutt. ii=v, *soda* scr. i, al. amygdal. scr. i;—or hydrag. m. c. gr. iv, al. crot. gutt. iv, al. amygd. gutt. viii, ung. tereb. gr. x.) If the inoculation is made with the lancet, the mixture is placed in the depression on the blade of the instrument, and thus introduced. In *plaster-inoculation* the ointment is spread on a small piece of lint; this is placed with great exactness over the aperture in the skin,and then covered with adhesive plaster. During the first few days it is often necessary that this application should be repeated every 4, 6 or 8 hours. This causes the separation and expulsion of a portion of the subcutaneous cellular tissue, leaving a small cup-shaped depression, into which the remedy may now be introduced without being mixed with the vehicle. In cases where the plaster-inoculation is to be continued for a great length of time, the application is to be renewed 2 or 3 times a week.

In inoculation with the lancet, it depends upon circumstances whether the operation is to be repeated several times a day, and whether one or several incisions are to be made. Thus a number of incisions are necessary in general diseases (along the spine), in cutaneous affections, ulcers, diseases of the joints, and generally in extensive local diseases. In many cases the inoculation is to be made *directly on the diseased part.* Thus in pseudoplasmata, a deep incision must be made with the lancet at their base, and this may even be done with nasal polypi, if they can be pulled down far enough. In chronic eruptions, the incisions must be made where the eruption is thickest, in the halo which surrounds the vesicles or pustules. In ulcers, the inoculation may be made on the edges, or even at their base. In induration or hypertrophy of glands, a deep incision must be made into their parenchyma; (in disease of the mammory gland,an incision an inch in depth may be required.)

In other cases the inoculation is to be made *in the neighborhood of the diseased part.* Thus for hypertrophies, extravasations, phlebitis, the incision must be made in the healthy tissue close to the boundry of the diseased part; in affections of the joint, one or two inches above them; in nervous fevers, paralysis, along the back, close to the spinal column; in affections of the womb, urinary organs, or the lower extremities, in the region of the kidneys; for chancre, gonorrhœa, leucorrhœa, disordered menses, in the groin or the inner surface of the thighs; for hydrocele, just under the external abdominal ring; for disease of the brain,over one of the sutures; for disease of the eye, on the temples; for neuralgia of the face or teeth, just in front of the ear, or near the infra-orbital foramen; for disease of the pharynx, just under the ear; for disease of the lungs, in one of the intercostal spaces; for abdominal disease, over the liver or spleen, or in the umbilical region. It was also found that some affections, such as eruptions on the head, were cured by inoculations on the arm, &c. In making incisions with the lancet, pretty violent bleeding occasionally took place, but this was never serious enough to give cause for alarm.

We will now proceed to give the most important *clinical results* at which our author arrived, having tried his mode of treatment on about 300 patients. In many cases the specific effects of remedies with which we are already acquainted, will be found quite pronounced.

Acid. acet. Warts and similar formations were quickly destroyed by a slight scratch and the introduction of a very small quantity of the acid. Callous edges of ulcers, and even scirrhous tumors were favorably affected by this remedy.

Ammon. carb., (6—8 grs. pr. dos.) acts like creosote, having a transient stimulating effect in paralytic weakness.

Argent. nitric. Useful in *naevus* and *telangiectasia;* also for *atonic, spongy, gangrenous ulcers*, if introduced at their edges.

Arnica tinct. If inoculated on the back, very effectual against *spinal weakness* (formication, weakness of the lower limbs, uncertain gait, urinary difficulties.)

Bellad. extract, acts like *atropine*, but seems also to have an irritating effect on the blood, causing congestion to the head. Plaster-inoculation on the head or neck was soon followed by dilatation and immobility of the pupil; various phantasms, mostly of dark colors, vision impaired, but the power of accommodation not destroyed; beating and noise in the ears; full feeling of head; drowsiness, without being able

to go to sleep. There were *never* any symptoms about the throat, such as difficulty of swallowing, dryness of fauces, &c. As a remedy, *bellad.* was useful in affections of the nervous system with increased or perverted activity, as in whooping cough, in its convulsive stage; in painful convulsions of hysterical subjects.

Calc. chlor. In atonic ulcers, with ichorous discharge, inoculation is preferable to the external use of chlor. of lime, although this application alone will not generally suffice for a cure.

Canthar., pulv. Inoculated in the iliac region, it causes dysuria, strangury, dark colored urine with much mucus and sediment, priapism. As a remedy it may be used in retentio urinæ or enuresis paralytica, paralytic state of the rectum; in the first stage of inflammations of serous and mucus membranes. Deep inoculations of this remedy along the spine, are very efficacious in all *acute diseases with great prostration* of *the nervous* and *vascular systems.*

Colchicum, tinct., has a permanent effect in rheumatic and gouty affection of the joints.

Conium. Inoculations with this remedy cause very violent pain.

Cubebæ. During the first stage of *gonorrhœa*, the following treatment was very successful: Plaster-inoculation of cubebs or balsam copaiba, on the loins or the inner surface of the thighs; and at the same time repeated injections of cold water. In gleet these remedies were also effectual.

Cepri sulph. and *acet.* The plaster-inoculation of these remedies is very useful in local disorganizing inflammations; gangrenous ulcers, stomacace, diphtheritic angina; in cachectic ophthalmia; in chronic pulmonary and intestinal catarrh.

Hellebori nigr. extr. (4 to 8 grains a day.) Very useful in abdominal congestion, hæmorrhoidal difficulties, amenorrhœa; also in chloasma and other more extensive eruptions, arising from an abnormal state of the abdominal organs.

Iodine. (The action of *iodide of potass* is similar, but much weaker.) This remedy was rapidly absorbed. In many cases there was a perceptible taste of iodine, and occasionally there was cough, irritation of the throat, anxiety and headache. The plaster-inoculation, (4 to 10 grs. pro dosi), proved efficient where continued inunctions of iodine had no effect, in cases of glandular hypertrophy and induration, especially of the thyroid, parotid, submaxillary, inguinal and mammary glands, and of the liver. This application had no effect in scirrhus, melanoid or encephaloid disease, for even if separated in part or entirely, these morbid growths still returned. But the iodine was successful against *pseudoplasmata:* Polypus, lipoma, fibroid and encysted tumors;—for inflammatory disease of the bones, disease of the vertebræ, coxalgia, Pott's disease; for disease of the joints, whether scrofulous, gouty, rheumatic or from external injuries, and also in chronic forms, such as hygroma of the bursa patellæ. It was also effectual in dyscratic diseases of the eye and ear, such as otitis interna, otorrhœa, scrofulous ophthalmia, iritis of long standing, keratitis, hypopion, acute and chronic granulations of the conjunctiva, pannus, lachrymal fistula. For the absorption of serous, albuminous and fibrous exudations, and for hypertrophy of the tissues of various parts and cavities, while the constitution was still vigorous; for example: For peritonitis with exudation, hydrophthalmus, hydrops ovarii (*iod.* gr. 10, *hydr. ox. rubr.* gr. 4, mixed with the vehicle), hydrocele, hydrops articulorum, hygroma, ranula, urethral stricture after gonorrhœa. Inoculations of iodine were also very useful in tubercular disease of the lungs, while glandular swellings and diseases of the bones in tubercular subjects were cured by this means, without giving rise to pulmonary troubles. The same result was obtained in tubercular disease of the brain. A good result was also observed in constitutional suppurative and ulcerative processes, such as carious ulcers, lymphatic and other abscesses, fistulous discharges. Two cases of *Lupus* are particularly worthy of mention, a permanent cure being apparently effected in one case with *iodine* and *corr. subl.*, and in the other with *iodine* and *creasote*, mixed with the vehicle.

Creosote. For all kinds of gangrenous, phagedænic and sphacelous *ulcers.* As a stimulus for "subparalitic conditions of the spinal chord" it is more efficacious than arnica, rhus, strychn. or musk.

Mercurius. For inflammation of serous and mucous membranes, and of all organs having a tendency to suppuration. It is stated that this remedy is particularly efficacious in parenchymatous iritis; also that in *pneumonia* nothing is "more powerful" to prevent exudation than the inoculation, first of *corr. subl.*, and later, of *iodine. Syphilis.* For years the author has treated primary *chancre* with inoculations of *corr. subl.* (gr. 6, *aq. dest.* drachm. 1), or *hydr. oxyd. rubr.* (gr. 1 pr. dos., with the vehicle). Secundary ulcers of the throat were

treated with alternate inoculations of *mercury* and *iodine*.

Morphine. It is useful in neuralgic paroxysms, but only gives momentary relief.

Musk, when inoculated (1 to 6 grs.pr.dos.) is one of the most powerful *anodynes*, surpassing even *belladon*. and *morphine*. It effected a permanent cure in many cases of *neuralgia* of the face and teeth.

Natrum muriat. for *indurated glands* and *gouty concretions*. It stimulates expectoration.

Aleum croton. It never causes catharsis, even when 1 scrup. was inoculated on the abdomen in 14 days. But in cases of habitual constipation it produced normal evacuations.

Phosphorus. Useful in *chronic rheumatism*, lumbago, &c.

Plumb. acet. In profuse, debilitating *diarrhœas*; in ulceration of the larynx and trachea.

Rhus tox., extr. Very important in *paralysis*.

Sabinæ ol. A most powerful emmenagogue in amenorrhœa and dysmenorrhœa.

Secale cornut. In chronic, periodic *metrorrhagia*, also in obstinate *leucorrhœa*.

Strychnine. Even if applied without the vehicle, it had a *violent*, *irritating*, *local* action, followed constantly by tetanic symptoms. As a remedy, it had *no satisfactory effect*, either in general *paralysis*, *incontinence of urine*, or *amaurosis*.

Sulphur. It has an undeniable influence on the portal circulation, but its most important sphere of action is in *dyscratic cutaneous affections*. It was therefore used advantageously in all chronic diseases of the skin. It had the effect of hastening the course of boils, and even the *acarus* of *the itch* was destroyed with great certainty. *Eruptions on the scalp* were cured very rapidly, the hair being shaved for the space of 1 to 1½ inches around the point of the plaster-inoculation. This remedy was also useful for *ulcers* of the legs. The point of inoculation should be constantly covered with oiled silk.

Tartar emet. The ointment had a more irritating and painful local action than croton oil. Inoculations on the head caused severe passive congestions, injection of the conjunctiva &c., while nausea was sometimes observed if the inoculations were continued for some time. As a remedy, tartar emetic was useful in *bronchial* and *gastric catarrhs*.

Veratrine. In cutaneous diseases characterized by great dryness and roughness of the skin, such as *psoriasis*, *lepra*, &c. It also has a speedy curative action in recent *scabies*. In acute and chronic rheumatism it often causes a speedy diminution of the pain, and increased mobility of the joint. * * * * * * * * * * * *

* * * * * * * * * * * We have thus given a brief synopsis of the results of this mode of treatment. The most objectionable feature of Dr. Langenbeck's method is his habit of using a number of drugs in combination, thus rendering it uncertain to *which particular remedy* the cure is to be attributed. For this reason also the use of Dr. L.'s "vehicle," containing either tart. emet. or croton oil, or both, is open to criticism, because these substances, as Dr. L. himself admits, undoubtedly have decided influence on the human system. As a substitute for this combination Dr. Kurtz recommends an ointment having *glycerine* for its principal ingredient, thus forming a vehicle of a soft solid consistence, having no active properties except those of the remedy added to it to be introduced into the system.

These strictures apply not to the method, as such, but to Dr. L.'s manner of applying it; still it is probable that this mode of introducing remedies into the system will never be universally adopted, the necessity of repeated inoculations and of repeated local applications being so much more laborious and complicated than the administration of remedies by the mouth. Nevertheless Dr. L. appears to have been so successful in some local affections, and in such diseases as generally call for operative surgical interference, that it certainly seems to be a duty of the profession to test this new mode of treatment, by repeated and faithful experiment, in obstinate forms of disease that resist the ordinary treatment.

H. L. H. Hoffendahl, M. D.

(For the Medical World.)

SPIRITUALISM.

Being myself a Spiritualist (*sui generis*, perhaps), and somewhat familiar with the facts, fancies, and fallacies of Spiritualism, permit me to say that I believe the cautions uttered in the *Medical World* on this wide-spread mania to be well timed and loudly called for. I perceive one of your correspondents thinks that if you cannot account for all the phenomena that have occurred, you should keep silence, and say nothing about it. If you "do not understand it," says he, "keep silent!"

Now, there is one feature of this subject

which no man not *infested* can fail to understand, and that is, that Spiritualism has become a wide-spread mania; it has given rise to some of the wildest forms of fanaticism; multitudes have been made insane by it, not a few of whom have committed murder and suicide. As to the *origin* of certain phenomena that have occurred, the Editor of the *Medical World* knows precisely as much as any Spiritualist in the land, and that may be precisely nothing at all. No mortal can tell what causes the table to move; and, because we cannot tell, the mass are going mad, running into extremes, and becoming insane. Now, shall the editor of a medical journal say nothing to prevent this spread of insanity?—nothing to prevent suicide and murder?

Spiritualism is more directly calculated to induce insanity and suicide than any other one subject. And I use the term Spiritualism, to signify *those physical phenomena for which we can assign no physical or nervous laws*, as the immediate or remote producing cause. Such phenomena I have witnessed, and as I do not know how, or by what laws they have been produced, I cannot say they may not have been produced by departed spirits. I do not *assume* that such phenomena are produced by departed spirits; I only *admit* that they are spiritual in their origin. But this is a matter of opinion about which I do not dispute with any one at all.

But such, I say, is my own definition of Spiritualism, which differs almost *toto celo* from the notion prevalent among the greater portion of Spiritualists; among these, NERVOUS PHENOMENA (and as far as we know, nothing but nervous phenomena) pass for Spiritualism.

However, whether all, the nervous and other phenomena, be from spirits or not, is immaterial to the present question; it is sufficient that we are assured by Spiritualists that not less than two millions of people among us *believe* the phenomena to be spiritual in their origin. It is not the *belief* in the "fact, that spirits can and do communicate with mortals," that produces this mischief; but it is this SURRENDER *of the nervous system up to the control of spirits, or the* IDEA *of spirits;* real or imaginary. In this manner, Spiritualism has become an all-pervading MANIA, more wide-spread than Mormonism, or the delusions of the French Prophets. The question, therefore, now before the community for solution, is not so much in respect to the fact as to whether spirits do communicate to mortals or not; but it is in respect to the grade of spirits which thus operate on the nervous systems of the mediums. We admit the facts of spiritual origin, but deny the peculiar theory of Spiritualism, which affirms the reliability of communications made in this way. We deny that mortals can safely yield their minds or their nervous systems to the control of the inhabitants of another world, whether those spirits be real or imaginary. And hence it is, that nervous men, women, and children, become bewitched with this idea of having communications from Lord Bacon, Dr. Franklin, or some loved friend or relative who has died. Hence they seek either to be mediums or to receive some "beautiful communication" through one who is a medium, such as Miss Hattie Eager was (the young lady who predicted her own death, and then committed suicide in this city last November), or such as Judge Edmonds and John M. Spear now are. Seeking communications from "writing and speaking mediums" has now become a wide-spread mania. The mania of the French Prophets, and the "preaching epidemic" in Sweden, in 1842, were nothing in comparison with Spiritualism. Notice how far it exceeds all that have gone before it in its *tendencies* to produce fanaticism and insanity:

1. It appeals more directly than any other subject to the organs of *credulity* and *wonder*. These constant appeals from the invisible world, made by its apocryphal invisible inhabitants, must have this tendency.

2. Modern Spiritualism *tampers directly, always and forever, with the nervous systems of the mediums*. The "spirits" can do nothing without the nervous system of some living mortal to work upon, and through which to make "communications." Hence we are told of the twenty thousand who have become "trance," "speaking," "writing," and "test mediums," many of whom make a business of their mediumship, and some receive a liberal salary while they travel from place to place, holding forth to gaping multitudes. Of the Spiritualists it may be said truly, "they have heaped to themselves teachers, having itching ears."

3. Modern Spiritualism consists, chiefly, in the induction of *abnormal conditions* of the nervous systems of its mediums. The trance, or being "magnetized," as it is called, "by spirits," is an abnormal condition. All cases of trance and somnambulism approximate, and very often end in real insanity. I have been familiar with this whole subject from the beginning, having witnessed it in the Fox family, and in the family of Dr. Phelps, as also in the

different cities throughout the country; and I affirm what I know when I declare it as my candid opinion that modern Spiritualism tends to insanity, carried on as it is at the present time. Dr. J. V. C. Smith says:

"Clearly, Spiritualism is an extensive mental epidemic, which, in extreme cases, has repeatedly terminated in confirmed madness. Nearly every asylum for the insane throughout the Union bears melancholy evidence of the truth of this declaration."

No system of religion, no form of fanaticism, ancient or modern, tampers so directly and to such an extent with the nervous system of its victims as does modern Spiritualism. And, as the latter is more intricate, more stubborn and unaccountable to human laws, so it has become a real *mania*, wide-spread, numbering its victims even by millions.

4. Modern Spiritualism tends to suicide (in certain cases) inasmuch as, more than any other subject, it removes the fear of committing self-murder. This is done, as in the case of Miss Eager, when the spirits render their mediums "unconscious," while they induce them to swallow the poison. But Hattie, it seems, came to consciousness before she died, as the spiritual editor tells us that her "struggles were *violent and distressing*." And I have it from eye-witnesses, that her sufferings were intense beyond the power of language to describe.

So it seems the spirits which had predicted her death (and who indeed must have caused it), these "guardian spirits," it seems, could not keep poor Hattie sufficiently "unconscious" to prevent the most horrible state of suffering in her death struggles. Let all mediums remember these facts.

Now when we consider all these traits, and bear in mind that "Spiritualism" excites, not only the organs of wonder, but calls into excessive exercise all those faculties in our nature which are appropriate to religion, it is easy to see how it is that such a vast amount of fanaticism, nervous phenomena, insanity, and suicide have obtained all over the land under the name of Spiritualism. The clergy and others who *ignore* the facts of Spiritualism (as I have defined it above) are powerless in all they may attempt to do for staying this prevalent mania. The true remedy is in correct views of psychology and the spiritual world. These excesses, insanities, and spiritual suicides, never occur among the New Church people, or those Spiritualists who believe that seeking open intercourse with spirits is attended with danger. The angels never break through and thus take possession of mediums; this is done only by the lower grade of spirits, who mix up much of poetry, fiction, and fantasies, in order to attract and control those over whom their spell is to be fixed. Hence, to put mortals on their guard, such cautions as have appeared in the *Medical World* are certainly called for.

That modern Spiritualism will, on the whole, do more good than evil, I am inclined to believe; and so I may say of various other forms of fanaticism in which has been embodied some important truth. But this admission is no reason why we should overlook the evils of which complaint is here made. We want to know all the facts; and where shall we look for the whole truth if not to such papers as the *Medical World?*

All the facts, fancies, hallucinations, and suicides of Spiritualism are not faithfully reported in the spiritual papers. Those papers, I know, say they are free, and go for free discussion. And so are the Roman Catholic papers free, and they go for free discussion as really as the spiritual papers do. If all the facts of these suicides and murders now occurring connected with Spiritualism ever reach the public mind, it must be through those papers that are not *spell-bound* by this SPIRIT MANIA.

L. SUNDERLAND.

Boston, June 8th, 1857.

(For the Medical World.)

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The "Boston Medical and Surgical Journal," of June 4th, has the following pertinent and just remark upon the attendance at the late meeting of this body, at Nashville, Tenn. "We are disappointed in the smallness of the attendance from this section of the country; only two delegates having been present from the New England States, neither of whom were from Massachusetts." This was really to be regretted, as this Association is calculated to do much good to the profession, and to promote harmony and good feeling among the different States of our Union.

But, so far as the "Suffolk District Society" is concerned, we are not surprised that none attended the meeting; and for the following reasons:—the *manner* in which the delegates are selected is calculated to prevent the attendance of any. It is this: a committee whom all that understand the underground move-

ments of this society know were *self-appointed*, go out to *nominate* "delegates" to this "Association." One member of this committee suggests a particular man, because *he* not only *will* go, but *wishes* to do so, having business calling him that way. The chairman objects, for reasons best known to himself, probably some personal pique or grudge, as it has been intimated there are but few members against whom he has not something of this kind. Another is proposed by one of the committee, but the chairman does not *take* the name. By-and-by, he has completed his list of a dozen or fifteen; he comes in and *nominates* them; they are appointed. But there is not a man among them all that calculates or wishes to go. Most of them, yes, all of them, have attended several times over; while there are many members who have never attended, and, as long as the delegates are selected in this manner, never will, simply because they do not belong to *the clique*, whose *peculiar* province it is to *make nominations*.

This course of procedure was the sole cause why there was no representation this year from the "Suffolk District," a society numbering almost as many members as all the rest of the State.

This suggestion, namely, "the absurdity of the way in which these delegates were chosen," was made to the writer, immediately upon the selection, by a physician of the highest standing in the Society, and, moreover, also, one of the "counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society."

This kind of *censorship*, in the choice of delegates, contravenes the great principle upon which the "American Association" was organized; which was that every member of the profession should, in his turn, have an opportunity of becoming a permanent member of the National Association, by being sent as a delegate. This can never be so long as the *same* delegates are appointed, year by year, or so long as the nominations are made by an *oblique* chairman of the committee, who thinks no one fit to be sent, as a delegate, whose *obliquity* does not harmonize with his own distorted vision.

As a remedy for this non-attendance, we would suggest that a list of *volunteers*, (all of whom are members in regular standing, of course), be opened, and each man who will go put down his name. Let this be done, and the complaint will never again be heard that no one attended from Boston.

It is too late in the day for *one* man or a *clique* of men, to control medical societies, or *repudiate* those who are of quite as respectable standing as themselves: and, where such *one-eyed* influence is permitted to bear sway, it will, ere long, show its withering influence, just as the *barrenness* of Massachusetts was visible at the recent meeting of the "American Medical Association." It blights and kills, and shows its nakedness wherever it goes, and withers whatever it touches. SYPHA.

CLERICAL HEALTH.*

NUMBER XVII. — BY WM. M. CORNELL, M. D.

Longevity — Instances of longevity among philosophers, physicians and clergymen — Greatest among active men, farmers, soldiers, hunters — Daniel Webster's account of Thomas Jefferson — The body must die, the spirit live.

Many men have lived to old age; and, upon examining their history and mode of life, we find that exercise, activity, study, contentment, and regular habits, apparently contributed much to their longevity.

Abraham lived to the age of one hundred and seventy-five years. He was a man of great resolution, and successful in his undertakings. Isaac, his son, lived to the age of one hundred and eighty years. He was a very peaceful and tranquil man. Jacob lived to the age of of one hundred and forty-seven years. He was peaceful, but crafty. Ishmael, one hundred and thirty-seven; he was a warrior. Sarah, the only female of the ancient world whose age is recorded, lived one hundred and twenty-seven years. Joseph, one hundred and ten; he was a man of great prudence, and in his latter days very prosperous. Moses, under heavy cares and great fatigue, lived one hundred and twenty years; he complained that the life of man endured only threescore and ten, or at most fourscore years; thus showing that life then was much the same as at present. Joshua, an active warrior, lived to the age of one hundred and ten. Eli, a corpulent and resigned man, died at the age of ninety. As we come down to the latter period of the Jewish state, we find Simeon, a man full of hope and faith, also dying at the age of ninety.

The ancient Chinese lived to a great age; and Lucian ascribes their longivity to their drinking water in great abundance. Hufeland supposes they might have then used *tea*.

* Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1856, by WILLIAM M. CORNELL, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.

Solon, one of the wisest men among the Greeks, lived to the age of eighty years. Epimenides, of Crete, lived to the age of one hundred and fifty-seven years. Anacreon, the poet, mirthful and jovial, died at the age of eighty. Sophocles and Pindar at the same age. Georgius, who spent much of his time instructing the young, died at the age of one hundred and eight years. The temperate and modest Isocrates, at ninety-eight. Democritus, a great naturalist, good-tempered and serene, at one hundred and nine. Diogenes, frugal, but slovenly, at ninety. Zeno, the founder of the Stoics, at one hundred. Plato, a genius of the rarest kind, a lover of rest and meditation, at eighty-one.

Instances of longevity were also numerous among the Romans, both male and female. M. Valerius, a man popular and fortunate, lived more than a hundred years. Orbilius, a soldier and a teacher, also over one hundred. Fabius, one of the slowest of men, ninety. Cato, a friend to rural life, and an enemy to physicians, ninety. Terentia, the wife of Cicero, one hundred and three. Livia, the wife of Augustus, passionate, but fortunate, ninety.

Several of the Roman actresses lived to a great age. Luceja performed a century, and appeared on the stage in her one hundred and twelfth year. Galeria Copiola made her first appearance, as an actress, at the age of ninety. She appeared again, to honor the trinmph of Pompey; and again under Augustus; but *acting* has become a very different affair from what it was anciently. What actress in modern times ever becomes old? Acting and its modern attendants consume life more rapidly than any other occupation.

Pliny, the secretary of the Emperor Vespasian, has given us, from a perfectly reliable source, the census, taken in the seventy-sixth year of the Christian era, the following list of persons then living, in that part of Italy, lying between the Apennines and the Po, one hundred and twenty-four men, one hundred or more years of age; fifty-four, of one hundred; fifty-seven, one hundred and ten; two, one hundred and twenty-five; four, one hundred and thirty; four, one hundred and thirty-five; two, one hundred and thirty-seven; three, one hundred and forty. There were in Parma three men who were one hundred and twenty, and two, one hundred and thirty; in Placentia, one of one hundred and thirty; at Faventia, a woman one hundred and thirty-two; in Vellejacium, a small town near Placentia, ten, one hundred and ten, and four, one hundred and twenty.

As evidence that mere study, at proper times, and under judicious regulations, is not injurious to health or longevity, we may remark that the students of nature have, generally, lived long. The Stoics and Pythagoreans were of this kind. Several of these lived to the age of a hundred years; among whom were Spollonius and Xenophilus.

Among the moderns this class of philosophers have been long-lived. Bacon was seventy-eight; Newton, eighty-four; Euler, seventy seven; Kant, eighty; Fontanelle, ninety-nine.

Many school-masters have been remarkable for longevity. Poets and artists have not been remarkable for longevity. Fancy and imagination consume life much more rapidly than calm, contemplative study.*

The most remarkable instances of longevity are found among gardeners, farmers, soldiers, sailors, and such as lead peaceable lives in the open air. In such employment Henry Jenkins lived to the age of one hundred and sixty-nine years; Thomas Parr to one hundred and fifty-two; and his great grandson to one hundred and three; a Dane named Drakenburg, one hundred and forty-six; J. Effingham one hundred and forty-four; Stender, one hundred and three; Mittelstedt, one hundred and twelve; Kuper, one hundred and twelve; Hellen Gray, one hundred and five; Garrick, one hundred and eight; Glenn, one hundred and fourteen; Anthony Lenish, one hundred and eleven. All these were active or laboring men. Most of them were from the poorer classes of society, and obliged to labor for a

* The following shows the age of a number of literary men.

Tasso,	51	Handel,	75
Virgil,	52	Beaumer,	75
Shakspeare,	52	Galileo,	78
Moliere,	53	Corneille,	78
Dante,	56	Marmontel,	79
Pope,	56	Thucydides,	80
Ovid,	57	Juvenal,	80
Horace,	57	Young,	80
Racine,	59	Plato,	81
Demosthenes,	59	Buffon,	81
Lavater,	60	Goethe,	82
Galvani,	61	Claude,	82
Boccacio,	62	West,	82
Fenelon,	63	Franklin,	84
Aristotle,	63	Herschel,	84
Cuvier,	64	Anacreon,	85
Milton,	66	Newton,	85
Rousseau,	66	Voltaire,	85
Erasmus,	69	Halley,	86
Cervantes,	69	Sophocles,	90
Dryden,	70	Whiston,	95
Petrarch,	70	Michael Angelo,	96
Lesage,	70	Titian,	96
Linnæus,	71	Herodias,	100
Locke,	73	Fontanelle,	100
La Fontaine,	74	Georgias,	107

living. Physicians, as a class, are shorter lived than any other professional men. Though the greater mortality is said to occur among them during the first ten years of their practice. Those who survive this period of *seasoning* live to an average age with other professions.* Clerical men live, on an average, as long as any professional class. But this has not been the case among the Roman pontiffs. "Of three hundred popes," says Hufeland, "no more than five attained to, or exceeded the age of eighty. The monks were remarkable for longevity, and they, undoubtedly, owed it to their strict regimen, self-denial, and abstraction of excitement, and the use of much bodily exercise. Paul, the hermit, lived to the age of one hundred and thirteen; St. Anthony, one hundred and five; St. David, one hundred and forty-six; Athanasius and Jerome exceeded eighty; Theodore, Archbishop of Canterbury, eighty-eight; Wilfred, Bishop of Hexam, seventy-six; the apostle John, ninety-three. We should have been pleased to have given a full list of the age of the clergy of New England, but we have been unable to collect anything like a perfect one. We think such a catalogue would show that on an average, clergymen have lived as long as any class of professional men.

In 1824, Mr. Webster visited Thomas Jefferson at his home in Virginia. He wrote at the time a description of the ex-President, and kept notes of his conversation, of which we give the following specimens:

Thomas Jefferson described by Daniel Webster, December, 1824. Mr. Jefferson is now between eighty-one and eighty-two, about six feet high, of an ample, long frame, rather thin and spare. His head, which is not peculiar in its shape, is set rather forward on his shoulders; and his neck being long, there is, when he is walking or conversing, an habitual protrusion of it. It is still well covered with hair, which having been once red, and now turning gray, is of an indistinct sandy color.

His eyes are small, very light, and now neither brilliant nor striking. His chin is rather long, but not pointed. His nose is small, regular in its outline, and the nostrils a little elevated. His mouth is well formed, and is still filled with teeth; it is strongly compressed, bearing an expression of contentment and benevolence. His complexion, formerly light and freckled, now bears the marks of age and cutaneous affection. His limbs are uncommonly long; his hands and feet very large, and his wrists of an extraordinary size. His walk is not precise and military, but easy and swinging. He stoops a little, not so much from age as from natural formation. When sitting, he appears short, partly from a rather lounging habit of sitting, and partly from the disproportionate length of his limbs.

His dress, when in the house, is a gray surtout coat, kerseymere stuff waistcoat, with an under one faced with some material of a dingy red. His pantaloons are very long and loose, and of the same color as his coat. His stockings are woollen, either white or gray; and his shoes of the kind that bear his name. His whole dress is very much neglected, but not slovenly. He wears a common round hat. His dress, when on horseback, is a gray straight-bodied coat, and a spencer of the same material, both fastened with large pearl buttons. When we first saw him, he was riding; and in addition to the above articles of apparel, wore round his throat a knit white woollen tippet, in the place of a cravat, and black velvet gaiters under his pantaloons. His general appearance indicates an extraordinary degree of health, vivacity and spirit. His sight is still good, for he needs glasses only in the evening. His hearing is generally good, but a number of voices in animated conversation confuse it.

Mr. Jefferson rises in the morning as soon as he can see the hands of his clock, which is directly opposite his bed, and examines his thermometer immediately, as he keeps a regular meteorological diary. He employs himself chiefly in writing till breakfast, which is at nine. From that time till dinner he is in his library, excepting that in fair weather he rides on horseback from seven to fourteen miles. Dines at four, returns to the drawing-room at six, when coffee is brought in, and passes the evening till nine in conversation. His habit of retiring at that hour is so strong, that it has become essential to his health and comfort. His diet is simple, but he seems restrained only by his taste. His breakfast is tea and coffee, bread always fresh from the oven, of

*The following names embrace a list of *physicians* or medical philosophers who attained to a somewhat advanced age.

Boerhaave,	70	Harvey,	81
Haller,	70	Mead,	81
Tissot,	70	Duhamel,	82
Gall,	71	Astruc,	83
Darwin,	72	Hoffman,	83
Van Swietan,	72	Priel,	84
Fallopius,	72	Swedenborg,	85
Jenner,	75	Morgogni,	89
Heister,	75	Heberdeen,	92
Cullen,	78	Ruysch,	93
Galen,	79	Hippocrates,	109
Spallanzi,	79		

which he does not seem afraid, with sometimes a slight accompaniment of cold meat. He enjoys his dinner well, taking with his meat a large proportion of vegetable. He has a strong preference for the wines of the Continent, of which he has many sorts of excellent quality, having been more than commonly successful in his mode of importing and preserving them. Among others we found the following, which are very rare in this country, and apparently not at all injured by transportation: L'Ednau, Muscat, Samian, and Blanchette de Limoux. Dinner is served in half Virginian, half French style, in good taste and abundance. No wine is put on the table till the cloth is removed.

In conversation, Mr. Jefferson is easy and natural, and apparently not ambitious; it is not loud, as challenging general attention, but usually addressed to the person next him. The topics, when not selected to suit the character and feelings of his auditor, are those subjects with which his mind seems particularly occupied; and these, at present, may be said to be science and letters, and especially the University of Virginia, which is coming into existence almost entirely from his exertions, and will rise, it is to be hoped, to usefulness and credit under his continued care. When we were with him, his favorite subjects were Greek and Anglo-Saxon, historical recollections of the times and events of the revolution, and of his residence in France from 1783–4 to 1789.

Rev. Dr. Emmons died over 96 years; Rev. Thomas Andros, of our native town, 88; Rev. Wm. Wilson, of Providence, R. I., 90; Rev. Dr. Pierce, of Brookline, 80; Rev. Jonathan Mills, of Bellingham, 70; Rev. John Allen, of Dedham, 75; Rev. Benjamin Caryl, of Hopkinton, 79; Rev. John Wilson, of Medfield, 70; Rev. Joseph W. Sessions, of Needham, 69; Rev. Phillips Payson, of Walpole, 73; Rev. George Morey, 80, and John M. Merrick, also of Walpole, 71; Rev. Nathan Buckman, of Medway, 91; Rev. Daniel Sanford, 72; Rev. Stephen Badger, of Natick, 78; Rev. Samuel West, of Needham, 70; Rev. Mr. Patee, of Ashfield, 99; Rev. Mr. Fogg, of Kensington, 78; Rev. Dr. Chaplin, of Groton, 87; Rev. Mr. Whiting, of Shirley, 80; Mr. Blake, of Westfield, 82; Dr. Ripley, of Concord, 90; Mr. Noble, of Orford, 90; Mr. Sanger, of Orford, 97; Mr. Grousthor, of Paxton, 80; Mr. Damon, of Oxford, 80; Mr. Glabant, of Berlin, 88; Mr. Wells, of Stubley (living), over 92; Mr. Miles, of Braintree, 88; Mr. Shaw, of Bradford, Vt., 89; Dr. Nott, of Franklin, Conn., 99; Mr. Williams, of Northampton, 90. John Wesley lived to be 88 years of age, and the latter half of that period almost wholly upon a vegetable diet.

This list of clergymen who attained to an advanced age might be greatly extended. We have even now living among us, in the full exercise of their bodily powers and mental faculties, some who have numbered more than fourscore years.

The life of man now, then, is what it was in the days of David; and we learn from the above, that *the age of the world*, since the flood, has made no perceptible difference in the length of man's life. Men may now live, through the care of a good Providence and temperate habits, to the age which they attained in the days of Abraham. Cold countries are, perhaps, more favorable to longevity than warm ones; but in almost all the varieties of climate, some have attained to a very advanced age. There is ample reason to put forth effort for a long life. Providence smiles upon all who obey his laws; and hence, those who live most in accordance with the simplicity of nature, generally attain to longevity.

Clergymen, notwithstanding the great amount of labor imposed upon them, and the inequality of it, can attain to the good old age of our fathers. They have ample encouragement to obey all the laws of their being, and as watchmen, they cannot but be neglectful of duty, unless they so live as not to "die before their time."

Religion ought to be a companion of longevity. It was designed to calm the troubled sea of human life, and to prepare man for a peaceful exit from this to a holier and happier world. On the Apostle of the Gentiles it produced this tranquillizing effect, by teaching him, "in whatever state he was, therein to be content." It is to be lamented that it should ever be converted into an engine of wretchedness and suffering. This is not the characteristic effect of true devotion. Fanaticism and enthusiasm have no more relation to true religion than base coin to the genuine. It is only the abuse of Christianity that tends to the destruction of the human fabric. This abuse has sometimes proved dire indeed. But true piety calms all the passions, moderates the desires, checks fanatical notions, and, bringing the whole man in subjection to the laws of evangelical temperance, prepares him for a long and a happy life.

Few clergymen of our time accomplish as

much, or live as long, as those of the Fathers who have been named, in New England. There are many reasons for this. Clergymen now have much more to do than they had then. They must engage in all that pertains to life. Of this we have seen some specimens, when speaking of their connection with their parishes, in a former number. Then, once settled, it was for life, for "better, for worse," the knot was tied. They lived more then in the open air—they were accustomed to take long journeys on foot and on horseback.

"The sofa then was not;"

nor easy carriages, nor railroad cars. Their food was coarser and more conducive to health. They rose earlier and retired earlier. Their mental perplexities were far less than at present. They expected their counsel would be followed, and their expectations were not cut off. Their parishioners sought to make them happy, rather than miserable. They never attempted, in the midst of their days and of their usefulness, to thrust in a *colleague* upon them. What would *Dr. Emmons* have said, if the people of *Franklin* had proposed to him, when fifty years old, to have a *colleague?* Methinks I see the flash of his keen eye, and hear the withering sarcasm, as when he was wont to criticise a young and self-sufficient brother, or to rebuke a "busy body in other men's matters." But how many, even before fifty winters have passed over them, have been compelled either to relinquish *one half* to a colleague far less competent and efficient than themselves, or the *whole* to a fastidious and *ear-itching* people?

No wonder ministers at present do not live out half the days of their fathers! There are ample reasons to every reflecting mind. A change must come over both clergymen and parishes, and they must go back to the good and stable customs of the Fathers in New England, or forward to the system of thorough *itineracy*.

Having thus said much of the body, of the best management of its passions, and of the means to be used under its physical government of God for its longevity, we may close this sketch by remarking that the body is not our most noble part. It is wonderful, as the workmanship of God; but the *soul* is, after all, the tenant. The body should never be allowed to clog and impede the progress of the mind. As God is the head of the universe, and man the head of the woman, so intelligence, reason, conscience, are the head of the body, and designed to preserve, enoble, purify, and, through Divine grace, elevate it to a resemblance to the glorified body of the Redeemer.

While, therefore, we would make the most of the body, never allowing its powers to stagnate, or be abused; while we would ever recognize its superior workmanship, and "human form Divine," and inculcate the best means to give to it longevity, we would desire to feel that it is "of the earth, earthy," and must soon return to its original dust. With these views, we would enjoin upon all the vast importance of cultivating those higher intellectual and moral powers which ally man to beings of superior endowments—and to Him who has exalted our nature above all created beings by taking it upon himself.

Let all, then, remember that the present life of the oldest man is but as a grain to the globe in comparison of the endurance of his being, and of the ever-increasing function and progress which await him who makes the most of both body and spirit.

[Communicated to the Medical World.]

EXTRA UTERINE PREGNANCY.

ROCHESTER, VT., June 9, 1857.

DR. SMITH, — Dear Sir: Below, we send you the facts in relation to a case of extra uterine pregnancy, which you are at liberty to use as you may think best:

Mrs. J. S., of Rochester, Vt., eleven years ago last April, was pregnant for the third time, and, up to the ninth month, had regular paroxysms of pain resembling neuralgia of the uterus, of a very aggravating character, and lasting about as long as the usual menstrual flow. At the ninth month slight labor pains came on, and lasted about two weeks, when they gradually wore away; and her strength, which had become very feeble, began to improve. Her breasts filled, and she nursed a pup *four* months, having a large flow of milk. Menstruation again commenced, three or four months after weaning the pup, and continued down to August, 1856, with a good degree of regularity. During the regular term of pregnancy she had a most voracious appetite, which continued until within a few days of her death; still she could not bear the least particle of food without the greatest distress. She complained mostly of a constant *burning* in the stomach as of a pent-up fire there which nothing would could cool or assuage. This was

aggravated by food, which caused much bloating of the epigastric region, and, to use her own words, the food lay like a stone. Her bowels inclined to constipation. Her general health continued quite comfortable, enabling her to perform considerable manual labor, which she was, from her indigent circumstances, obliged if possible to perform, until May, 1846, when we became more intimately acquainted with the facts of the case. From this time, her stomach difficulty seemed more severe, and she was unable to sit up all the time ever after, although the same *terrible* appetite was her constant companion.

We proposed an operation, when we became fully acquainted with the case; but she preferred to let nature have her course. About three weeks before her death, she was suddenly attacked with labor pains, which continued with more or less severity until a few days before her death, when she lay in a state of stupor which continued till she died.

At the time the labor pains came on she had many symptoms of stone in the bladder, and with the passage of urine, were emissions of flatulence with a loud report, which seemed to pass from the urethra — perhaps from the vagina. With her urine was discharged shreds and lumps of very offensive smelling matter which had the color of pus. At the post-mortem, the fœtus was found encysted in the right ovarian region, with a *fistula* connecting the cyst with the urethra, explaining the cause of the offensive urine. Nothing remarkable beyond its extremely offensive odor and appearance. She was in her 53d year.

DRS. SPARHAWK & CURRIER.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.

T. C. Nott, M. D., of Alabama, is becoming the great ethnographical philosopher of the age. His industry is worthy of example. If young physicians who waste half their days in smoking and reading frivolous works which excite the imagination, rather than discipline the more important properties of the mind, would imitate the industry of Dr. Nott, many of them who will never be remembered after their debts are paid, might live to be greeted as profound scholars. Should any one seriously question this proposition, let *him* study attentively that curious volume called *Types of Mankind*, the joint labor of Dr. Nott and George R. Gliddon, Esq. But there is no reason why an inch of paper should be written over to establish the value of doing something. A man of leisure is to be commiserated rather than envied. In Europe there is a class of beings who vegetate. Being persons of colossal estates which were rightful inheritances, there is no necessity for acting or thinking beyond deciding when and what they will have for dinner. Under such favorable circumstances, they merely eat, sleep and die, without leaving a trace behind.

How gratifying to that innate ambition concealed in every bosom, to accomplish something towards the advancement of society. He who stimulates another to think, has really become a benefactor; and he who has the ability for urging the mental machinery of thousands of cultivated minds into a higher state of healthful activity, has lived to some purpose. Education exceedingly modifies the views of learned men, so that an idea which might strike some as brilliant, transcendently grand, or beyond all others, the great discovery of a new truth, would be condemned by narrow minded men who never uttered an original suggestion of their own, or had the magnanimity to admit any one had, not of their peculiar way of thinking.

Dr. Nott is not appreciated at present as he is destined to be hereafter,—simply because the best qualified judges have not dared to praise him, fearful of running counter to some domestic current on which they hope to float into a higher sphere of public admiration. The timid read Dr. Nott's works with avaricious avidity, but are very careful not to speak of him in terms of high commendation, lest it should lead to their own pigmy extinction, when examined by the effulgence of his light of genius. As a purely ethnographical inquirer, he has no rival in his own country. He analyzes most critically, and boldly gives the results of his researches. The snarlers,— the envious spectators of his achievements, which are destined to become brighter and richer in the progress of coming times, and in a higher civilization,— discover immense danger in the dissemination of Dr. Notts's profound investigations.

We could say a vast deal more, commendatory of the intellectual explorations of Dr. Nott; but our first object is to urge our readers to procure — Indigenous Races of the Earth; or, New Chapters of Ethnological Inquiry: including Monographs on Special Departments of Philology, Iconography, Craniosopy, Palæontology, Pathology, Archæology,

Comparative Geography, and Natural History. Contributed by Alfred Maury, Francis Pulszky, and J. Aitken Meigs, M. D., with Communications from Prof. Jos. Leidy, M. D., and Prof. L. Agassiz, LL. D., presenting fresh investigations, Documents, and Materials. By J. C. Nott, M. D., and George R. Gliddon, Authors of "Types of Mankind." Published at Philadelphia by J. R. Lippincott.

FLOATING FACTS.

Suspended Animation. — Wat. Eckman, of Cleves, Hamilton County, Ohio, was taken violently ill, and according to two physicians who attended him, died. The next morning he was placed in a coffin, and carried in a market wagon to a church, about two miles distant, where a funeral sermon was preached. As the last hymn was about to be sung, the audience were startled by unusual noises and the sound of vigorous kicking proceeding from the coffin. The coffin was speedily opened, when Eckman was found literally alive and struggling to free himself from his unwelcome position. Blood was flowing freely from his mouth and nose, but in a few moments he was able to speak, and the next day to walk about his room.

Inebriate Asylum. — An effort is being made in New York to raise by subscription $50,000 for the establishment of an asylum for the medical and scientific treatment of inebriates. We see it stated that of this sum $32,000 has already been subscribed. The citizens of Buffalo have given $2,040; Albany, $1,040; Rochester, $1,100; Syracuse, $1,000; Utica, $720; Lockport, $600; Oswego, $550; Rome, $420; Watertown, $420; Auburn, $320; Binghampton, $340; Albion, 250; Amsterdam, $240.

Progress of Crime. — There are about 40,000 persons committed annually in England and Wales, and of these about one-sixth, or between six and seven thousand, are either acquitted upon trial, or discharged for want of prosecution.

New Naval Surgeons.—Robert Bartholmew, of Maryland, Jas. C. Bailey, of Pa., T. Cooper, McKee, N. Y., Reully Ryland, of Missouri, and Wm. A. Carswel, S. C.

Murder Mania. — A widow who has been a domestic for many years past in the family of a Boston physician, was recently sent to the Worcester Insane Asylum by her employer, owing to a monomania which she had for killing her only daughter, a child about 12 years of age. The woman is perfectly rational on all subjects but this one, and she was sent to the asylum at her own request, as she declared that she loved her child, but there was a something that she could not explain continually urging her to commit a deed that she knew she should bitterly regret. For her own sake, and that of the child, she begged the kind hearted Doctor to place her where she would be beyond the reach of temptation.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Dr. L. F. W. Andrews, editor of the *Georgia Citizen*, has been sued for libel to the tune of $20,000 for publishing the name of a subscriber who had moved off without paying his subscription dues.

Geo. D. Gibbs, M. D., of London, has been elected a corresponding member of the Boston Society of Natural History.

Dr. Beigler, of Rochester, N. Y., has been convicted of manslaughter in the second degree, for procuring an abortion on the person of Amelia Muir. Sentence, seven years.

In England and Wales there are at this time 500,000 females more than males, in the census of population.

Artificial rubies are manufactured in France, by lining a crucible with equal parts of alum and sulphate of potash reduced to powder and colored — and then exposed to the fire of a common forge for a quarter of an hour.

Monday, April 20th, John McNair, of Bird Flat, Placer county, who has long believed that he had a snake in his stomach, and has been taking medicine, vomited a live snake eleven and three-quarters inches in length, which lived for ten or fifteen minutes. Doubted.

The Iowa Medical College has issued its lecture circular for the coming autumn. With a faculty of eight talented professors, and the institution located in the growing city of Keokuk, there is a fair prospect of its soon becoming a great and influential school of science.

A German died in New York on Tuesday in consequence of taking a large dose of oxalic acid which a druggist had given him by mistake for salts.

Propositions for legal enactments to secure to physicians certain privileges, are urged at different points. A grave question naturally follows — what school of practitioners ought any of the State governments to recognize, to the exclusion of all others, who may pay taxes, and, by the bill of rights, are to be protected with all the privileges and immunities of citizens?

For two weeks ending April 11th, there were but eleven deaths in the city of Sacramento.

A severe comment on homœopathy appears in the Lancet. The opposition it meets with is an essential element of its triumphant onward march in Europe and America.

Palmer & Co.'s establishment in Boston, for the manufacture of artificial limbs, is admirably arranged and well worthy of the inspection of medical strangers who may visit the great anti-everything city of the East.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, JULY, 1857.

To our Patrons. — Agreeably to a proposition which has appeared for several successive weeks on the cover, the publishers of the Medical World, who are the sole and exclusive owners, will issue it but once a month during the Summer season. This appears to meet the approval of subscribers, as far as our inquiries have been extended. The editors being necessarily absent from this period for considerable time, an opportunity will be thus afforded to readers, contributors and ourselves, to recruit and make active preparations for resuming the weekly series at the commencement of autumn, under the most favorable circumstances.

Marine Hospital Report — New York. — At the Quarantine ground, Staten Island, in the harbor of New York, for many years there has been a hospital designed for affording temporary medical assistance to seamen and foreign emigrants, who are brought down by infectious diseases. At the present time, preparations are actively going on for the removal of the establishment to another locality less objectionable to the people, because more remote from those centres of population which characterize the environs of the great commercial city of New York, and the growing settlements on the Island.

Attached to the institution, as physician in chief, is Elisha Harris, M. D., who made the last annual report of the transactions of the institution, in February, to the legislature; but, either through the law's delay or the negligence of its ministers, a published copy of the document was only quite recently received.

At the onset we shall not attempt to conceal the fact, that the whole system of quarantine surveillance, as administered in the port of New York, is, to our apprehension, a gross violation of the rights of the merchants of this country. In other places and in papers written upon the subject of useless quarantine regulation, we have concealed no sentiment, nor hesitated, on all fitting occasions, to speak out boldly to the community in regard to the shameful imposition practised by sanitary Boards and Commissions, under the plea of preserving the public health.

Health officers, prescribing medical officers, &c., at quarantine stations are in no way blameable. When placed there on professional duty, they should be paid liberally for their services. Dr. Harris is admirably qualified for the department upon which he has made a circumstantial and clear report. The wrong is chargeable to the legislature for persisting in useless detentions of vessels, crews and cargoes, and not to the medical men who administer the law. A continuance of nonsensical quarantine vexations is due to the obsolete opinions of by-gone authorities, which an advanced knowledge of the science of disease has shown to be unsound. Another century may possibly be required to bring about a reformed system of sanitary legislation which the unfoldings of science clearly indicate.

The report, however, which Dr. Harris has presented, is an admirably drawn history of the yellow fever at Staten Island and its surroundings in 1856. A map, accompanying the text, illustrative of the points of departure which the malady took, and its reappearance, from the Marine Hospital, adds very materially to the value of the memoir.

Without interrogating the author respecting his belief in the contagiousness of that tropical scourge, the yellow fever, upon which the whole family of Æsculapius are divided into two distinct parties, about equally balanced, it is sufficient that he, as a faithful chronicler of events, has furnished abundant evidence of his professional faithfulness, and very minute and distinct acquaintance with the terrific minister of death with which he manfully contended one year ago.

In this official communication to the State authorities, Dr. Harris furnishes a complete catalogue of the sufferers; the state of the weather; the tides and all such phenomena as may be most serviceable to an inquirer in a search for causes which gave activity to a desolating pestilence. And in connection with other items of information, the capacity of the hospital under Dr. Harris' charge, is mentioned as calculated for the accommodation of a multitude of patients. The past year, 1,648 were received; the number discharged was 1,368, and 203 died.

In closing these comments on the report, we desire particularly to express our confidence in the ability, intelligence and integrity of the chief and all the physicians of the Marine Hospital and Quarantine officers of the port of New York associated with him; but at

the same time say that we have no confidence whatever in the present quarantine laws now in force in this country.

INTRA-CAPSULAR FRACTURES OF THE CERVIX FEMORES.—A Massachusetts gentleman, on presenting himself for the degree of doctor of medicine at the University of the State of New York, also presented an inaugural thesis on a subject that is calculated to command the attention of surgeons, although the production of a student whose experience must have been limited, and his experience still more so.

Having already appeared in a medical journal we cannot of course give to it that extended circulation another reprint would accomplish, without incurring the displeasure, perhaps, of the editors and author. If the latter could afford to multiply copies of the pamphlet he might safely calculate on the achievement of an early reputation for chirurgical knowledge. Young men write so much fashion, and purloin from works of authority with a freedom not always commendable, in preparing for graduation, that a sensible, useful, practical guide, like the one to which these hasty observations refer, is regarded as a curiosity. There is talent in it, and tact too, which property cultivated, may lead to very great professional eminence. Perhaps these remarks may never reach the author, as his address is unknown to us; but in case they should, he ought not to be offended with this advice,—Draw from your own intellectual resources, as in this thesis, and you will succeed.

INTEMPERANCE OF MEDICAL MEN.—The *Montreal Witness* has such a reputation for eminent discriminating powers, that the editor is oppressed by applications for advice, or what amounts to the same thing, demands upon him for assistance in procuring for individuals and communities, properly qualified persons to sustain certain functions in society. This is what he says of physicians in Canada, in answer to a request:—

"But the latest application which we have received is of such a nature that we wish we could respond to it satisfactorily. It is for a good doctor, favorable to religion and the temperance reformation. The accounts we have heard from various localities respecting the intemperance of medical men, are truly distressing. In one Western town, which has four or five doctors, all, except the youngest, are drunkards, upon whom, though skilful enough in their profession, no dependence whatever can be placed, on account of their intemperance. And, though this is doubtless an extreme case, yet there are other neighborhoods distressed and afflicted by intemperate physicians. We copied, in a recent number, a call for Christian physicians for the heathen, but we are not sure that any of this class can be spared from Canada. We fear, indeed, that there are too few of them for the wants of the country. Should any suitable doctor see this, who is not yet settled, we could give him valuable information as to a sphere of usefulness."

MARRIAGES.

At Exeter, N. H., 11th inst., John Stevens, M. D., of Boston, to Mrs. Oliver R. Hoyt, of E.

At San Diego, California, Dr. David B. Hoffman, to Donna Dolores Wilder.

In Boston, William Dickinson, M. D., to Miss E. Crane.

DEATHS.

At Sacramento, Dr. T. S. Hill, late of Maine.

At Westboro', Mass., of inflammation of the bowels, Dr. Benj. Ford, 68.

At Rathfriland, Ireland, Mrs. Mary, wife of Samuel Swan, M. D.

At Woodlawn, Ireland, John Wolseley, M. D., 84.

In Ballymena, Ireland, John Duffin, M. D.

In Belfast, Ireland, Dr. Horatio Stewart, Professor of Materia Medica, in the Queen's College, Belfast.

At Portland, Me., Dr. Theopore Ingalls, 68.

At Carmel, Me., Dr. P. Ruggles, 54.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 13.

Child (male) of James and Eliza Fogerty 1 day, John Collins 1 mo, Ellen Feely 1 do, Caroline Rein 8 mos, Thomas McGuire 13 do, Joanna Crowley 16 do, Charles S. Adams 16 do, Alice G. Dunning 6 do., Martha Gott 36 yrs., Cornelius Madden 45 do, Hannah Doherty 22 do, John Farren 3 do, Mary C. Dewire 2 do, Ann M. C. Wright 19 do, Frances C. Spear 3 do, George A. Wheeler 14 do, Ann McElroy 43 do, Michael Walsh 3 do, Geo. Talbot 76 do, Alonzo Darling 22 do, Sarah Scott 30 do, Louisa C. Smith 80 do, Ellen Dowling 2 do, Sarah M. Ford 2 do, Robt. P. Fininley 7 do, Charles F. Berry 4 mos, Robert Connors 6 do, Sarah Copithorn 5 do, male child of Wm. H. and Mary A. Brown 1 day, Thomas H. Neeson 12 days, Nicholas Roche 50 yrs, John Sheehan 52 do, Ellen Doyle 4 do, Catharine Coffey 14 do, Mary O'Brien 30 yrs, Wm. F. Newcomb 43 do, Patrick Ryan 28 do, Sarah C. Hinsdale 48 do, Rachel Bates 75 do, Abigail G. Stephenson 61 do, Benj. F. Reynolds 16 do, Jeremiah Dacey 22 do, Mary A. Somes 21 do, Mary Higgins 2 do, Thomas F. Jackson 2 do, Gustave Schwoerer 14 mos., Joanna Conway 18 do, Thomas Hart 1 day, Mary J. Callahan 12 mos, Elizabeth Irwin 29 yrs, Nancy Goodrich 80 do, James Westwood 68 do, Catharine O'Donnell 45 do, Thos. D. Francis 75 do, Wm. Hendricken, 1 day, John Hurley 11 mos, Thos. Fox 30 yrs, D. J. Holton 35 do, Rhoda Mather 71 do.

DISEASES.—Inflammation of bowels 3, do. of brain 2, disease of brain 2, consumption 12, convulsions 3, croup 4, debility 2, dropsy 3, do. in head 2, infantile diseases 4, unknown do 2, scarlet fever 3, inflammation of lungs 4, old age 2, teething 3; other diseases 1 each, 8. Males 30, females 29. Total 59. 43 were born in the United States, 13 in Ireland, and 3 in other foreign places.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE

MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME II. AUGUST, 1857. NUMBER 13.

POPULAR MEDICAL ERRORS.

Corns.—That a corn has roots. The common idea, I take it to be, is, that a corn grows from its roots as a tree does, and therefore it is necessary to extirpate the roots before a cure can be accomplished. The advertisements of corn-cutters are often very amusing. I saw one the other day, which took a different view from that commonly adopted. The advertiser began by stating that corns had no roots, but he went on (inadvertently I suppose) to add that there were no such things as corns, and concluded by a list of charges for removing them. When a part is a good deal exposed to pressure, the cuticle becomes hardened, just as it will at the ends of the fingers in those who play the violin; besides this, the papillæ of the subjacent true skin become enlarged, and give the appearance of roots when a section of a corn is made. This is all the mystery. So that, let us cut as deep as we will, if we continue to wear tight boots and shoes, the corns will speedily reappear. The kind of shoes which ladies wear, which merely cover the toes, and therefore make all the pressure bear upon that part, are exceedingly objectionable, especially where the shoes are pointed, and the leather strong.

Hydrophobia.—The notion that hydrophobic patients bite those around them, and thus communicate the disease, is a popular error which I think scarcely needs contradiction. However, it seems that the idea appeared worthy of contradiction many years ago. In the second volume of a work which Desault published "Sur la Piense des Reins, et de la Vessie," in 1786, he treats of the hydrophobia, and alludes to this notion with the ridicule that it deserves.[1]

In respect to hydrophobia, there also is, or was, an opinion that patients suffering from the complaint are smothered by the attendants. I should think such an idea could now only exist amongst the unreflecting, not to say ignorant; yet it appears that a practice almost amounting to this was actually recommended and adopted by Van Helmont. "He kept his patients under water until the psalm *Miserere* (the 51st, containing nineteen verses) was sung, and in one case a poor girl was drowned."[2] Drowning is only like another way of smothering, and this was certainly carrying too far the old adage of desperate remedies for desperate diseases. Whilst on the subject of hydrophobia, I may mention that the prevailing idea of its being peculiar, or even more frequent, in the summer season, is called in question by very high authority. The practice of muzzling dogs during what are called the "dog days" is common, I think, in most of our towns; but if we are to credit some of the writers on this subject, it is not more necessary then than at another time. The subject is too purely medical to be entered fully into on the present occasion. I may just state that M. Trolliet,[3] who has written an interesting essay on *Ralics*, states that January, which is the coldest, and August which is the hottest, month in the year, are the very months which furnish him fewest examples of the disease.

A Loud Voice a Proof of Strong Lungs.—I have not unfrequently heard the loud cry of an infant considered as a subject of congratulation; "for at least," the mother would say, "the dear thing has sound lungs." Mothers are always kind and tender to their children, and one would be sorry to say anything calculated to destroy the smallest source of their comfort; but it is not merely in reference to infantile life that the observation is made. I have more than once heard it said by adults that they felt sure their lungs must be sound, on account of the clearness or loud-

1 Hamilton: Hist. of Med. p. 259, vol. ii.

2 Elliotson, p. 276, op. cit.

3 Vide Watson, p. 599, vol. i. op. cit.

ness of their voices. It is true that disease of the lungs may, and does frequently impair the vocal powers, but it is by no means to be stated in this general manner that a loud voice is indicative of sound lungs.

Spontaneous Combustion.—We often hear people speak of spontaneous combustion in joke, but the question may sometimes arise, Are there, in reality, any cases of this kind? Are we to credit the accounts which are to be met with in books on this subject? There certainly are some very extraordinary instances on record, some of which I may very briefly mention. The singularity about the cases seems to be, that the unfortunate sufferer is said to be consumed literally to ashes, without the furniture about him appearing to be more than just scorched. It is said in the Transactions of the Copenhagen Society, "that a woman who had been for three years accustomed to take spirituous liquors to excess, and who took little nourishment, sat down one evening to sleep in her chair, and was found consumed in the morning, so that no part of her was found except the skull and the extreme joints of her fingers; all the rest of her body was reduced to ashes."[4] One case is related of a Madame de Boiseon, who was found by her maid on fire one day after she had left her for a few moments. Water was brought and thrown on her, but it only seemed to make the fire rage more and more. Finally, she was burnt to a skeleton in her chair, which, by the by, was only a little scorched. These cases will, I think, suffice; many more might be adduced, but they all seem to be of the same kind. I think it would require very good evidence to make one credit them.

That combustion of the human body can arise *spontaneously*, as the term implies, does not, I think, find many partisans at the present time; but as in most of the cases recorded there seems reason to believe that the patient was placed in circumstances in which he might catch fire from ordinary causes, the question further arises, Can there be a high combustibility of the body? On this point there is not time to enter fully, as so many subjects have to come before us. I may state, however, that many very respectable authorities admit it as possible that the body may be preternaturally combustible, amongst whom I may mention Dr. Alfred Taylor, of Guy's Hospital.

Milk.—Milk forms a very nutritious and digestible article of food, and on many occasions medical men have to recommend it as the best adapted for the exigencies of the case in point. There is an opinion, however, very common, which I imagine to be in a great measure erroneous, that milk produces phlegm, and is, therefore, very much to be avoided in all cases of coughs. I will not undertake to say that milk is always proper for invalids; but I must say that I regard this peculiar phlegm-producing quality of milk to be in a great measure a bugbear, which does not deserve a serious consideration. I can conceive it very possible that persons of a plethoric habit, who drink large quantities of malt liquor, may so gorge the lungs with blood, that an increased secretion of mucus (the so-called phlegm) may arise; but I think that such a result is very little likely to have its origin in a milk diet. Still people will affirm that milk does not agree with them, and I would not undertake to say that such is not the case. I only wish to state that the objection which is commonly made to milk in coughs does not seem to me to deserve credit.

Vaccination.—It is a common belief that there is a risk of introducing with the vaccine virus, the diseases, or even constitutional tendencies, of the infant from whom the virus is taken. On this account mothers are very particular that the matter be got from a good source, and some will even insist upon seeing the child themselves. If it were really the case that the vaccine virus communicated more than the cow-pox, it might be found a valuable means of communicating vigorous constitutional powers to sickly children, and would even be more valuable in this way than in its application as a preventive of small pox. I cannot, however, imagine that there is any such effect. At the time when the great Jenner was endeavoring to diffuse his views in respect to the vaccine inoculation, many objections were industriously brought forward, and amongst others, it was said that the disease of the cow would be thus introduced into the human subject. This was a very parallel kind of reasoning.

Experiments.—People are very ready to suppose that experiments are tried on them by medical men. I have always assured those who express this fear that they give the profession credit for a deal more ingenuity than is possessed by it. I really do not believe that the great bulk of medical men, if pressed on the subject, could offer new suggestions in every case, at least such as they dare try. Think how long active and intelligent men

4 Berk's Medical Jurisprudence, p. 525.

have been cudgelling their brains to find out new remedies; and what there is left for us to do. Then, again, if we abandon the legitimate road, we open ourselves to risks which are more likely to mar them than make us. Be assured that it is very seldom indeed that medical men make use of untried means on their patients, and that there is very little fear of being made the subject of ingenious philosophical experiments.

Disgusting Articles in Medicines.—Many persons, especially amongst the humbler classes, have an idea that articles of a disgusting nature, such as dead men's bones, are used in the composition of medicines. At the present day this is certainly not the case; but it would appear from the older writings that plans of treatment of a very repulsive and disagreeable nature were actually employed. Many of these were happily in the form of outward applications, or used as charms, but have no doubt given origin to the ideas which prevail on this subject. Borlase, in his book of "Notable Things," observes that "a halter wherewith any one has been hanged, if tied about the head, will cure the headache. Moss growing upon a human skull, if dried and powdered, and taken as snuff, is no less efficacious."[5] Turner—the Dr. Samuel Turner who wrote on diseases of the skin, and who seemed rather fond of strange stories—notices a prevalent charm among old women for the shingles: the blood of a black cat, taken from a cat's tail, and smeared on the part affected.[6] The chips of a gallows put round the neck, and worn round the neck, is said to have cured ague.[7] Spiders, as may readily be supposed, were in great repute as remedies. Burton, the writer of "The Anatomy of Melancholy," was at first dubious as to the efficacy of the spider as a remedy, though he states that he had seen it used by his mother, "whom he knew to have excellent skill in chirurgery, sore eyes, and aches; till at length rambling amongst authors, as I often do, I found this very medicine in Dioscovides, approved by Matthiolus, and repeated by Aldovandus; I began then to have a better opinion of it."[8] For stopping hemorrhages all sorts of disgusting things were used. That very amusing and valuable writer, John Bell, says, "They tied live toads behind the ears, or under the arm-pits, or to the soles of the feet, or held them in the hand till they grew warm. Some imagined that they operated by causing fear and horror, but all believed their effects to be very singular; and Michael Mercatus says that this effect of toad is a truth, which any person willing to take the trouble may satisfy himself of by a very simple experiment; for if you hang the toad round a cock's neck for a day or so, you may then cut off his head, and the neck will not bleed a single drop."[9] These particulars are sufficient to show that the old modes of treatment were not the most pleasant that can be conceived. No similar practices are, however, now employed; and the idea that all kinds of disgusting things enter into the composition of medicines is altogether without foundation. We have only, indeed, to consider how much easier and cheaper it is for those engaged in the practice of medicine to supply themselves with roots and salts than dead men's bones, the blood of black cats, and other horrible conceits.

Opening the Chest.—The phrase "opening the chest" is very common, and exercise is often recommended with this view. We have no objection in the world to good exercise, if it be only moderate and regular; but the *opening* of the chest is fortunately not accomplished by back-boards and dumb-bells. However, the phrase, though vague, is perhaps sufficiently understood, and not particularly coupled with any false practical views. Whilst on this subject, I may be allowed to state that the fashionable gymnastics are, in my opinion, by no means the most desirable kind of exercise. They are mostly calculated to do harm, and are used at a time of life when great mischief may result from them. Of this mischief I cannot particularize in this place, farther than to state that many important surgical diseases arise from undue straining, and continue to affect the whole of after-life.

Mucous Membranes.—Whilst on the subject of these common expressions, I may just remark that there are some terms used which have really no meaning whatever, and cannot be connected with any definite ideas by those who use them. Sometimes we hear a friend say that "he is dreadfully ill of the *nerves*;" and another will tell you that he is sorry to say that his wife is ill, and the doctors have pronounced it to be the *mucous membranes*. These are, of course, instances of expressions being used after the manner of Mrs. Malaprop, without any inquiry as to their signification.

5 Pettigrew on Medical Superstitions, p. 64.

6 Pettigrew, op. cit. 79.

7 Op. cit. 69.

8 Anatomy of Melancholy, p. 245.

9 Bell's Surgery, vol. i. p. 204.

Seven Years.—People conceive that there is a change in their constitution every seven years. That a change is continually going on no one can doubt. We know that an infant grows to be a full-sized man, and consequently there must be a change of particles—a removal of some, and a fresh deposition of others—else we should have a mere superimposition of parts, and the body of the infant would be contained in that of the adult. But as to the seven years; for my part I never could conceive how people satisfied themselves that such changes were completed in exactly seven years. I have often asked by my patients, "Doctor, do you think I shall ever get rid of this complaint? They say there is a change every seven years; I look forward for this time, for I have already been ill five." The Roman Lustrum was, I think, a space of five years, the Greek Olympiad a space of four years, but seven years is the favorite period chosen as the one which regulates the changes of the body in public opinion. Of course a period like this will bring about many changes, and one cannot but look forward to such a period with feelings of interest and anxiety; still there seems no good reason to select this as the prescribed limits for the operations of nature.

Amputation.—Persons are very curious, and it is very natural that they should be, respecting surgical operations. I have often been asked what was the most painful part of an amputation; and before the answer could be well given, the querist has declared his own conviction that the act of sawing through the bone, or at any rate cutting through the marrow, must be the critical point. Now this does not appear to be by any means the case; and on thinking upon the subject, it seems to me that the idea arises simply from the word marrow being suggestive of great sensibility, and as it were, the essence of all that is profound. But the marrow is merely the oily matter contained in the bones, and must in itself be devoid of sensation. In one application of the word it is true; it has reference to an important part, as in the expression, "spinal marrow;" but this use of the word, though sanctioned by medical men, is altogether incorrect, and arose in error. What is called the spinal marrow is not marrow at all, but a part of the nervous system, which is continuous with the brain.

In speaking of surgical operations, I may mention it as a common idea that surgeons were in the habit of adopting means of deadening pain before they undertook an operation. Before, however, the recent employment of chloroform and ether, nothing was used expressly for this purpose. The tourniquet, which is placed round the limb to compress the artery, and prevent loss of blood, was no doubt supposed to be principally to numb pain.

Scurvy.—If we take the trouble to look into a professed work on diseases of the skin, we find a great many diseases described in a great many hard names, and at first feel quite confounded in our attempts to apply these terms properly to the cases we see. However, the public have made a very easy matter of it. With the great mass of people there is one name which they apply in every instance, and in every instance they apply it wrongly. This is scurvy. "What a pity (you will hear it said) that Mr. A—— is so scorbutic! And really Miss B—— would be very good looking, if it was not for that scorbutic affection." "What is the eruption?" you ask. "Oh! that is only a little scurvy which I have had for many years. Pray, doctor, can you give me anything for the scurvy?" Now, properly, the scurvy is a disease almost confined to sailors, arising from the want of a supply of fresh vegetables. The symptoms of scurvy are entirely different from those which commonly go under this name in a popular sense. There is a soft, spongy, and bleeding state of the gums, and great debility of the body. There is, in reality, no proper eruption on the skin, but irregular blotches, like those produced by a bruise. This disease is not often seen except among sailors, and has no relation to the eruptions which we so often see in people's faces.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

As early as the Saturday previous, the delegates, principally from the most remote points, began to arrive. And we were informed that all who arrived on that day, were so actuated from a desire to avoid travelling on the Sabbath. Many had so arranged their day of departure as to reach Nashville at that time solely on that account—among whom we may mention, and we do it with pleasure and to the credit of the profession, the names of Prof. Robley Dunglison, of Philadelphia; Prof. A. B. Palmer of Detroit, Michigan; Dr. W. P. Reese, of Selma, Ala.; the entire delegation from East Tennessee, consisting of Drs. Rogers, Ramsey, Boyd, Lenoir Long, and ourself;

Prof. H. F. Campbell, of Augusta, Ga.; Prof. A. H. Means, of Augusta, besides others whose names we do not now remember, all of whom gave this testimonial on the great occasion of the sacredness of the Sabbath.

Prof. Robley Dunglison.—As soon as it was known that this distinguished professor and physician was present, all were eager to see him. To our mind he bore just the impress in the lineaments of his face, and that carriage of his person, that one would have expected to have seen in such a teacher and such an author. Affable to all, a continual smile lighting up his countenance, with dignity in his gait and gentleness in his expression, he won the respect and esteem of all. Great men often become small on an acquaintance. Not so with Robley Dunglison. The distant view only served to create the desire for an acquaintance, and this did not fail to deepen the impression of his genius. As characteristic of the man was an incident which occurred on the introduction of one of the Nashville delegates to him. After the introduction, the delegate remarked, "Dr. D., you are not a stranger in our midst. We know you through your books. I have lately provided myself with another of your books, 'The New Remedies.'" To which Dr. D. replied, "I felt some hesitancy in putting forth that book. Men give too much medicine any how, and I felt as if I was pandering to that taste. The older I get, the less medicine am I disposed to give."

It will be seen that the Association voted that the names of Dr. Felix Robertson, Dr. John Shelby, and Dr. James Overton, three fathers in the profession, as *permanent members*. Drs. Robertson and Shelby were present at one time during the session of the Association. Dr. Overton was not able to attend.

Dr. Felix Robertson was born where Nashville now stands, in 1781. He graduated in medicine in 1805, when he presented that memorable thesis which was published in this country and also in Europe, on the Epidemic Chorea, or *St. Vitus Dance* which was prevailing throughout the new settlements at that time. They were attendant upon the extensive religious revivals then in progress, and the affection received the name of the *Jerks*. The venerable Doctor speaks with much animation of the incidents of that day. We regretted to learn that the volume, containing his thesis, was borrowed several years ago and has never been returned. Dr. R. has passed through many seasons in Nashville. He is yet engaged in the practice, although at the advanced age of 76, having been engaged in his profession nearly a half century. He visited the Association on Wednesday, and the announcement being made that he was present, the entire assembly rose to their feet, and greeted him as he ascended the platform with a hearty welcome.

Dr. John Shelby accompanied Gen. Jackson as Surgeon in many of his Indian campaigns, and though in after years they were opposed to each other politically, and that too with some bitterness, yet we are cognizant of the fact that some time before Gen. Jackson's death, Dr. Shelby called upon him at the Hermitage, and being met by the General at the door, the Doctor said, "Gen. Jackson we are bothgetting old and must soon die. I come to extend to you my right hand, and to bury the past." The General grasped his hand and replied, "Dr. Shelby, you are welcome; let bygones be by-gones"—and the two spent a pleasant day together. A few more months and General Jackson was numbered among the dead. Dr. Shelby still lives in the enjoyment of good health, and the possessor of a fine estate in Edgefield. He has not practised medicine for many years. He was appointed Postmaster in the City of Nashville, by President Taylor.

Dr. James Overton.—In company with Prof. Palmer, of Detroit, Dr. Porter, of Bowling Green, Ky., and Dr. Jones of Nashville, we made a visit to the venerable Dr. Overton. Although suffering under affliction we found him cheerful, and his mind as active as in his younger days. He is now about 72 years of age. He graduated in medicine in 1809 at the University of Pennsylvania, when Rush and Wistar, and Woodhouse and Physick filled the chairs. He returned to Lexington, his native place, and entered upon the practice of his profession. In 1814 he was elected to the professorship of Institutes and Practice of Medicine in Transylvania University, and delivered the first Introductory Lecture ever given in that Institution. His associates were Richardson and Dudley. He remained in connection with the institution for two years, when he resigned and removed to Nashville in 1817, where he continued in the active practice till 1840, when he retired to his present residence, a beautiful and commanding situation in the vicinity of the city. In 1845 he was solicited to become a candidate for the Senate of our State Legislature. The subject which he mainly pressed upon his fellow citizens, was the im-

portance of constructing a railroad to Chattanooga, to connect with the Georgia road, which was then approaching that point. It was emphatically his hobby, and he was called, on account of it, *Old Chattanooga*. He was, however, defeated. But the next session of the Legislature granted a charter to the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad Co., of a very liberal character. The Board was organized, and he, as the orginator of the project, was elected the first President of the Road. Having, however, expressed himself decidedly as opposed to a preliminary private survey, on the ground that undue advantage was taken of the public at large, at the next election he was defeated. This preliminary survey was for the purpose of showing the practicability of the present route through the mountains, whereas Dr. Overton was of the opinion that the location of that portion of the route should be a matter of time, and that explorers should be sent throughout the entire mountainous region, taking altitudes and examining for the best and most easily graded route. It will also be as well to note here that Dr. Troost, as Geologist of the State, favored a different route to that at present occupied, both on account of its easier grades, and greater supply of coal banks.

Since then Doctor O. has been leading a farmer's life. He still cherishes a fondness for medical studies. Lying on the table near him was a volume of the *Dictionaire des Sciences Medicale* published in 1820, and a glance at the page turned down showed that he was reading upon the subject *Sciatica*, as he was under the belief that he was laboring under that disease. Prof. Dunglison had visited him on the previous day and had recommended the following prescription:

Dip the hand in wheaten flour and rub the thigh for fifteen or twenty minutes—morning and evening.

Medical Editors.—Among the notables whom we met at the Association, were the editors of the American Medical Press. We regret, however, in view of the proposed convention of medical editors, that so few were present. We were pleased to meet and form pleasant acquaintance with Henry F. Campbell, of the *Southern Journal*, Augusta; Jos. P. Logan, of the *Atlanta Journal;* D. Meredith Reese, of the *American Medical Gazette*, New York; Zina Pitcher, A. B. Palmer, William Brodie, of the *Peninsular Journal*, Detroit; C. C. Beard, of the *Medical News and Hospital Gazette*, New Orleans; L. G. Robinson, *Medical Independent*, Detroit; D. S. McGugin, *Iowa Medical Journal*, Keokuk; W. K. Bowling, P. F. Eve, of the *Nashville Journal*. Only twelve out of the whole number, too few to take any step towards the convention proposed several months ago. From many we had expressions of an earnest desire for the adoption of some general rules, or principles of action for the management of our journals. —*Southern Jour. Med. & Phys. Sciences.*

SEPARATION OF THE SYMPHYSIS DURING PARTURITION.

Salem, Kalamazoo Co., Mich.
May 7, 1857.

On the 10th of March last, I was called to visit Mrs. M., aged 39, whom I found in labor with her fifth child, and as there are some circumstances of interest connected with this case, I beg leave to lay them before the medical profession through the columns of your valuable journal. Mrs. M., when in the second month of pregnancy, after pressing in a drawer with her foot, felt considerable pain in the lower part of the abdomen, greatly increased by every change of posture, and along with this she complained of strangury. She was bled and purged, and kept at rest, by which means, especially the latter, she grew better. But in the two latter months of pregnancy, the symptoms were renewed, so that presently she could neither walk, nor even turn in bed, without great pain; but her greatest suffering was caused by raising the legs to pull on her stockings, as then the bones were more powerfully acted on. A slight degree of hectic fever now appeared. Her delivery was accomplished easily; but on the evening of the third day, when straining at stool, after having received an injection, the pain, which had troubled her little since her labor, returned with as much severity as ever. On the fifth day, the pulse was very weak and frequent. She sweated profusely, and had a wildness in her countenance, with symptoms of approaching delirium. In the afternoon, the pulse became full and tense, with vertigo, and throbbing of the arteries of the head. The pain at the symphysis was excruciating, and, although she was fomented, and bled seven times, she obtained no relief. On the eighth day, the pain abated, but diffused itself over the rest of the pelvis, particularly affecting the left hip and the sacrum. On the eleventh day she died.

On opening the body there was found a sep-

aration of the bones at the pelvis, but the capsule was entire, and much distended. It contained about an ounce and a half of matter. Whether the timely evacuation of this matter might have saved the patient, is a question worth consideration. I am disposed to answer it in the affirmative; but in justice to myself, owing to the easy labor of the patient, I did not suspect a separation of the pelvis. Her pains during the early months of gestation, I considered of a neuralgic character, and I cannot now believe that they could have been produced by a separation of the symphysis at that time; or, in other words, that a separation could then have taken place. I throw out the facts in this, to me singular, case, hoping that some one more capable than myself will answer the question, if the slight injury the patient received during the second month had anything to do with the separation of the symphysis, as found at the post-mortem examination.

Respectfully yours,

JOHN L. NIMUKENS.

—*Penin. Jour. Med.*

HISTORY OF A SUCCESSFUL UNSUCCESSFUL LONDON SURGEON.

Albert Smith, so long a struggler and straggler in periodical literature, by which he earned a moderate but uncertain income during eighteen years, has actually made a fortune by his Overland Mail and Ascent of Mont Blanc entertainments, and seems resolved to live handsomely on it. At Fulham, close to the Bishop of London's suburban residence, this fortunate Smith has bought two or three acres of land (which is dear enough in that place), and has nearly completed the erection of a strange-looking villa, in which every known order of architecture is set at defiance, and a new composite style, which may be called the Comfortable, set up instead. This mansion is to be not only snug but magnificent in parts. There is a ball-room of great magnitude; a dining-room of ample dimensions; a library adapted for 10,000 volumes, and a barrack-room to accommodate 80 to 100 bachelor guests at a pinch. Since the erection of Abbotsford, never has any man of letters gone so largely into brick and mortar, as Albert Smith. As a poor man, he was harsh and haughty; as a rich one, he is aimiable and kind. The better qualities of his nature seem to have been brought out by prosperity, which too seldom has this effect.

Albert Smith, who was 41 in May, is almost a cockney—having been born at Chertsey, near London. A surgeon by profession (he completed his studies at Paris), he was compelled by want of practice to abandon the lancet in the country for the pen in London. At the age of 25 he became a magazinist, and his first book ("The Wassail Bowl") consisted of articles which he had contributed to the periodicals. Then he dashed into "Punch" with his "Experiences of a Medical Student," and "The Physiology of London Parties." In these last-named sketches (which appeared in the first volume of "Punch") a certain Mr. Ledbury was a favorite character. Afterward, "The Adventures of Mr. Ledbury," ran through *Bentley's Miscellany* as an independent story, illustrated by Leech. So did that striking semi-historical novel, "The Marchioness of Brinvilliers." Others of his works were published separately as serials; these were, "The Scattergood Family," "The Pottleton Legacy," and "Christopher Tadpole," this last being very autobiographical. Besides all this, Albert Smith edited more than one magazine of his own, and held "the mirror up to nature" in numerous farces. All this was done in eight years. In 1849, going to Constantinople as a member of the noble Order of Deadheads, he wrote a little book of travels, which, early in 1850, he turned into an entertainment—narrative, songs, and dialogue — called "The Overland Mail." This became so popular that he sought new materials, and ascended Mont Blanc in October, 1851, on which he founded his Mont Blanc lecture at the Egyptian Hall early in 1852. Every year since he has revisited Mont Blanc, so as to introduce novelties into his entertainment, which he has already repeated *fifteen hundred times*, and always to large audiences. While a writer, Albert Smith also tried to get on as a dentist, but did not succeed, though his skill is said to be considerable in that line. His last literary work, published in 1853, is "The Story of Mont Blanc." Since then he has thrown his mind exclusively into his public entertainments. In about five years, beside supporting himself and liberally aiding his family, Albert Smith has actually laid by between thirty and forty thousand pounds.

An aged Negro.—It is stated that a colored man is now living in Pomfret, Va., who is one hundred and twenty-six years old. He is as vigorous as most men of eighty.

THE PAIN OF DEATH.

Dr. Williams thus speaks of the last scene in the mystery of life. When the brain is originally implicated, and death is produced by apoplexy, all sensation being destroyed, it cannot possibly be connected with pain. In asphyxia, when brought on gradually by a combination of causes, the greatest amount of agony is inflicted, which we are capable of suffering. I say *agony*, because *pain* does not compass its horrors; no sensation can equal the terrible struggle attending suffocation. True, sudden asphyxia prevents continued suffering, but the pain is equally intense, though less protracted.

In syncope, painful sensations are experienced in the first stage of the process, but an entire cessation of sensibility so speedily follows, that death commencing at the heart is comparatively tranquil. In all these instances we perceive that the action on the brain is the cause of death. The conclusion therefore follows that in *articulo mortis* all feeling is lost, and not the slightest physical sensation *can* be experienced. Excessive pain is often endured during the progress of disease, but when that point has been attained which is to loose the Gordian knot, the brain has been so completely destroyed, as a necessary pre-requisite to produce death, that no sensation can be appreciated.

Thus ends life. After having struggled through the pain and turmoil of the first existence, and endured the pangs of the last conflict, the kind hand of Providence draws a narcotic mantle over the writhing body, anæthesia spreads a last sleep upon the sinking frame, and all is hushed in *death*.

Medical Impartiality. — The Board of Health of the City of Chicago have, agreeably to the desire of a large and most respectable body of citizen-petitioners, resolved that the medical charge of their new City Hospital shall be under an equal number of Homœopathic and Allopathic Physicians and Surgeons. The following named members of the profession comprise the two Medical Boards.

Homœopathic Board. — Drs. A. E. Small and A. Pitney, Consulting Physicians; Drs. G. E. Shipman, N. F. Cooke, S. Seymour, R. Ludlam, H. K. W. Boardman, and D. A. Colbon, Physicians and Surgeons.

Allopathic Board. — Drs. N. S. Davis and Spurzeim, Consulting; Drs. R. N. Isham, D. Miller, J. P. Ross, John Craig, Wm. Wagner, and G. D. Schlvetzer, Physicians and Surgeons.

The Chicago Homœopathic Medical Society numbers about *twenty* members, and holds its meetings once a fortnight. Some talk is being had toward the early establishing of a medical college of the same school in that city.

Parietal Bone detached. — While a boatman was sleeping on the deck of a canal boat, at Harrisburg, Pa., there was a collision with a bridge, which struck him on the back part of the head, and knocking therefrom the parietal bone, which was found shortly after as free from extraneous substance as if it had been extracted by the hands of a demonstrator of anatomy. The wounded man was of course instantly aroused by the concussion, and what is most remarkable, rose to his feet, perfectly unconscious of the extent of the injuries he had received by the collision. The slight pain in the back of the head gave him no trouble whatever, and it was only after he had dressed himself, and one of his comrades had found the bone on deck, that he was made aware of the unfortunate mutilation.

Professional Pleasantries.

A sailor having purchased some medicine of a celebrated doctor, demanded the price.

"Why," says the doctor, "I cannot think of charging you less than seven shillings and sixpence."

"Well, I'll tell you what," said the sailor, "take off the odd and I will pay you the even."

"Well," replied the doctor, "we don't quarrel about the trifles."

The sailor then put down the sixpence and was walking off, when the doctor reminded him of his mistake.

"No mistake at all, sir; six is even and seven is odd all the world over, so I bid you good morning!"

A census-taker once called upon the mother of afamily in California, or some other prolific State, and asked how many children she had. The mother replied that she really could not tell, but there was this of which she was certain, "the measles got among the children once, but there was not enough of it to go round."

COMMUNICATIONS.

CLERICAL HEALTH.*

NUMBER XVIII. — BY WM. M. CORNELL, M. D.

Masked Diseases.

Common province of the Physician—Sympathy in the human body—Spare diet—Cases in Point.

We have spoken of the functions of the skin, the lungs, and the digestive apparatus. We have also shown the reciprocal agency of mind and body, and especially the *nervous* system; and it now seems incumbent upon us to say a word respecting those diseases which originate in some abnormal function, or some organic lesion, where the original seat of the difficulty is concealed. Physicians know this often to be the case. But the non-medical man does not understand this phenomenon. Hence, he usually looks for the disease in the organ which is specially disturbed. No opinion, however, is more erroneously founded than this.

In fact, this idea suggests the appropriate sphere of the physician. Any empirical practitioner can write a recipe, or prescribe a cathartic, or an emetic; but it requires the scientific man to search out the real cause and direct to the most efficient measures to relieve the system and establish confirmed health.

Every well informed physician knows that what are called *masked diseases* are numerous. Even patients, themselves, become familiar with such cases, after a little experience. They know that certain diseases, or disturbances of the *stomach*, produce pain, or vertigo of the head. Sometimes, also, there is no pain, nor any perceptible sensation of annoyance in the stomach, and we should not even dream that this organ was implicated in the least; and yet the whole difficulty is to be found, or is really *there*. To such an extent does this masking of disease prevail that, in the language of the celebrated John Hunter, "the organ secondarily affected (in this case the head,) sometimes seems to suffer more than the organ to which the disturbance had first been directed."

Now, this sympathy, which exists between the stomach and the head, is but one case of the many which occur in the animal economy. The want of that due regard which should be paid to this sympathetic action between various organs of the body, often misleads even the medical practitioner; much more, the uninitiated in medical science. As a consequence of not comprehending the extent of this sympathetic action, the whole disturbance, or disease, is referred to the organ symptomatically affected, and the remedies are, consequently, addressed to an organ which is not diseased.

A *lung* may be affected, and the cause may not be in the chest; or, the brain may seem really diseased, and yet, the whole difficulty may arise from disordered digestion. There may be no signs in the organ first affected, and hence we often have to seek for the disease or disturbance elsewhere than where the *symptoms* are.

We have already spoken of nervous diseases, of the effect of the mind upon the body, and of the great exposure of clergymen to injurious influences; and the wish, which we now have chiefly in view, is to call attention to the *organs of digestion, as being much more generally, than is imagined, the seat of disturbance to clergymen and others.* These organs are usually very much oppressed. As a general thing, all *sedentary* persons take more food than nature requires, and they often take such a quality, as well as quantity, as is indigestible. Oppression, lassitude, hypochondria, headache, and a thousand real, or imaginary diseases, are the consequence; and, at the same time, any and every cause is assigned but the true one; and every remedy is resorted to, but the right one.

Take any sedentary man who is in the habit of eating three full meals each day, and diminish the quantity of his food one-half, or cut off his *suppers* merely, and he will be a great gainer. From being nervous, peevish, irritable, and listless, he will become calm, patient, and active.

One of the remarkable cases of this effect of a diminished diet, we have in the case of Conaro, to whom reference has already been made. But let any one of nervous habit, or in the least disposed to indigestion, live in a very simple manner, say on bread and water, or gruel, he will find a very sensible diminution of nervous irritability, and often, in a short time, those clouds of gloom and dark forebodings of the future, which had hung around him, will be dispersed, and he will appear cheerful and happy. Let not this remedy appear so simple that the restless, nervous invalid shall be disposed to treat it as Naaman did that of the prophet; if he does, we may well say to him as the ser-

* Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1856, by WILLIAM M. CORNELL, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.

vant of the Syrian general to his master, if we had prescribed "some great thing, wouldst thou not have done it? How much more" when we say, abstain only, and be well!

The object of these remarks is to direct attention to the digestive organs, and to convince him whose health begins to be impaired, that the seat of the difficulty is much more frequently *there* than he has been wont to suppose.

A clergyman called on a physician for advice respecting a troublesome inflammation of the eye. After a careful examination into his habits and manner of living, and the character of the disease, he was advised to change some of them, and especially to curtail his diet. Not thinking much of such a simple prescription, he went to another physician, who directed him to apply lotions to the eyes and nostrums to the stomach. After teasing the organs of vision with collyria, and the alimentary canal with physic, for a considerable time, and bleeding his purse sufficiently to *feel* it, and getting no better, he at length concluded he would try the first-named prescription. Soon his eyes recovered their accustomed health. Like the "tenth cleansed leper, he returned" to thank him who had recommended what was so simple and yet so effectual. "But who would have thought," said he, "that inflammation of the eyes would have been caused by what a man put into his stomach?" This unfolds exactly what we mean by these remarks. Disease, or abnormal action in the extremities, or the most distant organ, may be caused by irritation, or disease of the stomach. Every well informed physician knows that a twinge of the gout may be, and often is, caused by putting improper food, or stimulants, into the stomach. This troublesome complaint usually arises from abusing the stomach. In the same manner rheumatic affections are caused. Nothing is more common than for *lumbago*, or *sciatica*, to arise from the use of *brandy*. A physician was called to see a patient suffering with this disease. Upon inquiring into his habits, it was found he was in the daily use of brandy. He was advised to leave it off. He did so, and had no return of the disease for five years. He then commenced the use of brandy again In a short time, the rheumatism returned. It is a well-established fact among medical men, that brandy will cause rheumatism.

But the chief point now under consideration, is the action of the irritated or burdened stomach, and, indeed, the whole digestive apparatus upon the system, producing, by sympathy, through the medium of the nerves, disease in even the most remote parts of the body. These, it is well known, are very common cases, and many clergymen, and other sedentary men, are subject to disease arising from this cause, while they are ignorant of its origin. A hint to the wise is sufficient, and it is, If you would enjoy health, *be abstemious in diet.*

The writer has now under medical treatment a clergyman for disease of the throat and liver, which, he believes, originated in too sedentary habits, and taking too much food, and at improper hours, and of a too stimulating kind. He has, also, an *epileptic* patient whose disease arose, unquestionably, from the same causes. The remark upon "*late suppers*" is of vast importance. It would be far better to take *no supper* than a hearty one, at a late hour.

Most of these remarks have been proved both by personal experience, and in medical practice. As illustrations of the sympathetic influence between one portion of the body and another, the following cases may be adduced: A child, six years old, was struck by lightning in one foot, no other part of the body being injured, so far as could be discovered. The shoe upon the foot was burned, and the foot itself considerably injured. When fourteen years old, this girl became subject to epileptiform convulsions, which disappeared upon remedies addressed to the injured foot, thus proving that the whole system had become affected by the injury to the foot, though this had healed and appeared perfectly well, and none of the family suspected that the epilepsy resulted from this cause. Another girl had her hand caught in the machinery of a factory, and thereby severely injured. It, however, healed kindly. But three years after the accident, she grew extremely nervous, and finally became subject to spasms and convulsions, all of which disappeared upon opening an issue, or producing irritation in the hand which was originally injured. A familiar illustration of this same character is frequently met with in children who have convulsions simply from the irritation of the gums in *teething.*

Numerous other examples of a similar kind might be given. Indeed, it is believed that the grand fault in physicians is, in attempting to cure, when they do not understand the seat or nature of the disease which they would remedy. In this respect, the maxim of a very wise, though somewhat eccentric clergyman, (elsewhere quoted,) may well be applied to physicians, as well as clergymen, "When you know not *what* to do, you must not do you know not *what*."

(For the Medical World.)

THE HYDROPATHIC, OR HYGIENIC PRACTICE.

BY L. D. JARED, M. D.

QUINCY, ILL.

MESSRS. EDITORS :—Encouraged by the liberality of your position in relation to medical science, I am induced to present to the readers of your journal, an outline of the principles and practice of the hydropathic, or, more properly, the hygienic school of physicians.

There is quite a misapprehension extant, in relation to what is commonly known as the water-cure system of practice, which has been prejudicial, and subjected it to the captious criticism of those who feel themselves especially called upon to inveigh against *one-ideaism*.

We are willing to admit that the title by which our school is usually designated, justifies in a great measure the opprobrious sobriquet, which is the certain legacy of those who make a hobby of some speciality. At present, however, it is nearly universally admitted that the term hydropathy, or water-cure, is very poorly suited to express an idea of the real principles of the system.

There is therefore an effort being made to supplant the use of the term hydropathy by some other more appropriate. But the principles of the school, rather than the name are what we wish at present to discuss. We shall proceed to their investigation, therefore, and give such an exposition as accords with our idea of a rational system of practice. Life we consider a phenomenon of organized matter which manifests itself only under the constant supply of certain agents which may be termed the *conditions* of life. Now, as life itself depends upon the constant supply of certain conditions ; and as the phenomena must vary, *pari passu*, with any variation in the supply or agents ; and as man, during life, is more or less subject to the vicissitudes of climate, temperature, air, water, and food—these being the agents, or conditions of life—it follows that there will be a corresponding variation in the phenomena contingent upon the varying supplies. Life, when manifested under the most favorable circumstances, when all its conditions are met, with due reference to order, time, quantity, and quality, is called health ; for under such circumstances the functional harmony of the whole system is preserved. Health, then, is the manifestation of life under the most favorable of conditions. But it not unfrequently happens, from ignorance of the laws of health, or necessitous circumstances over which the individual has no control, that some one or more of those agents or conditions upon which health depends, have not been supplied in accordance with the physiological demands of the system ; in which case the phenomena of life will be but imperfectly exhibited, which we call disease.

Disease might indeed be defined, life manifested imperfectly developed, from a defective supply of that certain something on which its existence depends. It may be that an invalid has been in a vitiated atmosphere, or habitually slept in a small, unventilated apartment : that a fashionable belle, whose highest views of respectability are predicated upon a small waist, with great waste of dry goods in her supernumerary flounces, has suffered in consequences ; or it may be that a violation of some positive condition of health in respect to the quantity and quality of food taken may have resulted in sickness. We feel assured, however, that, be the indisposition of whatever character it is invariably the result of the infringement of some one, or more of the laws of health ; and it is philosophical to suppose that a correct and rational system of practice comprehends a proper supply of those agents, upon the want of which the disease depends. Now we, hydropaths, claim that supplying what Nature indicates she requires, is the principal part of the treatment in most cases ; or that simply putting the patient under the laws of his own being, is doing nearly all that can be done by human agency. I say "*nearly all*," because we recognize the value of artificial, mechanical, and some other means that may frequently be resorted to advantageously for correcting local difficulties ; but the main reliance is upon the recuperative powers of the system, assisted through the discoveries of science.

In such a plan of treatment we can find no place for the internal use of drugs,—the system not being diseased from a want or non-supply of them. Drugs do not form any of the conditions of healthy functional action, and hence we infer that the system was never in need of them. But a question as to the propriety of the use of poisonous drugs—agents, to effect those temporary, mechanical and other purposes of which we have spoken has to some extent divided the minds of the hydropathic profession. So far as we know, it is found that all these temporary effects necessary to be produced (surgical treatment excepted) in the human system, can be accomplished just as readily by various appli-

ances of water, air, and regulation of diet, exercise, &c., as with the delusory and dangerous doses from the pharmacopœia.

The whole materia medica of the hygienic school consists of those agents which are essential to the maintenance of life and the preservation of health; while the practice consists in supplying and applying those essentials, at such times, and in such quanities, as the demands of any given case may seem to indicate.

Based on these propositions, the following questions naturally present themselves, viz.: What is precisely the present condition of the patient? In what respect does he differ from the desired condition—health? And upon the improper supply of what one or more of the hygienic agents does the present disease depend? When these problems are fully solved to the satisfaction of the practitioner, there is but one course to pursue, and that is plainly marked. Nature is the great *master-builder*, under whose control the work is commenced, continued, and completed in her own way: and the patch-work of man only shows his ignorance. A true physician may be said to sustain the relation to a patient of a hod-carrier in the erection of a house: he may furnish the materials, but is of no farther service. All the most intelligent physician can do is to furnish the best materials, which Nature afterwards arranges according to her own unvarying economy.

FLOATING FACTS.

Life Insurance.— On the tenth page of a recent pamphlet on the advantages of *the credit system* in life insurance, in which reference is made to that excellent and stable institution in New York, the Manhattan Life Insurance Company, the following note is found:

"Of 5,642 persons insured at the age of 30 years, fifty-seven will die the first year; fifty-seven the second year; fifty-six the third; fifty-five the fourth; fifty-five the fifth; fifty-five the sixth; fifty-six the seventh; fifty-seven the eighth; fifty-eight the ninth; sixty-one the tenth; sixty-six the eleventh; sixty-nine the twelfth; seventy-one the thirteenth; seventy-one the fourteenth; seventy-one the fifteenth; seventy the sixteenth; sixty-nine the seventeenth; sixty-seven the eighteenth; sixty-three the nineteenth; sixty-one the twentieth, &c., so that at the end of thirty years no less than *nineteen hundred and ninety-nine* persons will have died before reaching the age of sixty years. Every one of these early deaths is a *loss to the Company* and a *gain* to the insured. The loss to the Company is to be made up by those who survive beyond the age of sixty, but after which age, the *deceasements* are very rapid; for example, out of 3,643 left at the age of sixty, one hundred and twenty-two will die the first year, one hundred and twenty-seven the second year, and so on.

Utility of the Negro's Color.— Some philosophical commentator on Nature's system of economy and beautiful adaptation of means to ends, thus writes in regard to the colored race: The negro in Barbadoes does not require a face cloth to protect his face; the black color serves the purpose. Like black paint on a white face, it prevents the sun's rays from having a burning, inflaming effect. The thick, crisp hair of the negro, and his thicker cranial bones, it can hardly be doubted, are also wisely intended as a protection from the same agency, as is also the dark color of his eyes. A like remark applies to his soft skin, favoring perspiration, by which it is kept cool, as well as by its black color, favoring radiation. Moreover, there is unquestionably in his constitution or organic frame, a something, we know not what, an influence or power of resistance which makes him proof against malaria, and the destructive fevers resulting from what we call malaria, when acting on white men, which have made the western coast of Africa the white man's grave, and has rendered active military service so fatal to European armies, when employed in a tropical climate.

The Japanese.— In personal appearance the Japanese are fair, and have a pleasing expression of countenance; and their urbanity and kindness to strangers, as well as to each other, are very remarkable. During the time we were in the ports, although our decks were daily crowded with them, Halloran says, I never saw the smallest expression of annoyance or bad temper; and whenever anything that was likely to be curious or interesting to them was pointed out to their notice, instead of pushing and crowding to get a sight of it, as the English would do under similar circumstances, each man seemed most anxious to occupy as small a space of room, and to impede his neighbor's view of the object, whatever it might be, as little as possible. In short, they appear to be naturally a kind-hearted and polite people.

The Sun-Flower against Miasma. — A long communication from Lieutenant Maury is published in the National Intelligencer, giving the details of an experiment which he made last season, in planting sun-flowers between the Observatory grounds in Washington and the Potomac, as a bulwark against miasma, from which the dwellers at the Observatory have hitherto suffered severely. The experiment was most successful, the residents of that station escaping for the first time the regular fall visitation of fever and ague, whilst in unprotected situations the shaking went on with its usual energy Similar experiments with the sun-flower culture, in France, have been attended with like results.

Have practising physicians any facts at command to sustain this declaration? It is very curious that when DeSoto explored the interior he found the principal and all-important crop of the present middle Southern States, on the rivers, was the sun-flower. The oil was used for lamps, dressing leather, painting, dressing the hair, &c., while immense numbers of fowls were fed on the seed. An independent queen who reigned in Tennessee presented DeSoto's army, one morning, *seven hundred hens* for breakfast, according to the Portuguese gentleman's narrative of the expedition.

Superstition. — The remains of a young lady who died of consumption, nine years ago, at Euphrata, in Pennsylvania, were exhumed for a purpose so monstrous as almost to surpass belief. Since her death, her mother, two sisters and two brothers have died of the same disease. The surviving members of the family, who are "Spiritualists," became convinced that the winding-sheet of the corpse had got into her mouth, and that by a continued suction she had actually drawn the other five members of the family after her; and that unless this winding-sheet was speedily removed from the mouth of the corpse, she would, in like manner, cause the premature death of the whole connection! Hence the exhuming of the body.

Mortality in Providence, R. I. — During the month of May there were 75 deaths in the city, being 26 more than in the month preceding, and 4 less than in May, 1856. During five months, from January 1st to June 1st, the number of deaths has been 335, or 140 less than during the same period of last year, and 48 less than the average for the same period in a series of years. — *Providence Journal.*

Death from Amylene. — A patient, thirty-three years of age, was operated upon by Mr. Ferguson, the London surgeon, for fistula in ano. Previous to the operation, amylene was administered by Dr. Snow. Unconsciousness was produced in two minutes, and the operation quickly performed, the anæsthetic being inhaled altogether three minutes. The pulse ceased during the operation, but respiration continued for at least ten minutes afterwards. The patient moved after the pulse ceased, and gave signs of rallying. These symptoms proved, however, fallacious, and he died in a few minutes. On examination, there was found slight dilatation of the right ventricle of the heart; the lungs were emphysematous. Dr. Snow concludes that death resulted from the amylene, the condition of the lungs probably tending to the fatal result. This case was the 144th in which Dr. Snow had administered amylene, and on no other occasion was its employment attended by the slightest ill consequence.

Beer Drinking. — The greatest lager bier drinking city on the globe is, undoubtedly, the city of Munich, in Bavaria, where revolutions are caused by the slightest rise in the price of bier. On the 1st instant there were in the different vaults 28,769 Eimers (about 521,880 gallons) of winter-brewed bier, the "genuine lager;" and 393,580 Eimers, (7,139,541 gallons,) a total of 7,661,421 gallons. The quantity brewed this season exceeds that of the previous one by 42,739 Eimers. Twenty-three brewers have manufactured this enormous quantity of bier, which will just suffice to supply the 130,000 inhabitants of Munich for 180 days.

Old Age in New Hampshire. — The oldest person in New Hampshire is Mrs. Allison, of Nottingham, 107 years of age. She is blind, but members of the family in which she resides are able to make her hear. She sits erect in her chair, but does not walk without assistance, and yet appears comfortable and well, and is apparently as likely to live a number of years as other aged persons in good health. She speaks very distinctly, so much so that the excellence and strength of her articulation is noticeable.

Venerable. — A horse, owned by Dr. F. Dorsey, of Hagerstown, Maryland, died last week in the 45th year of his age. The doctor has ridden him in his practice for 37 years.

Killed by Leeches. — At the village of Mentigny la Marc, near Paris, M. Lanquie, a druggist, lately established a nursery of leeches in a marsh or pond, where he was accustomed to feed them by driving an old worn-out horse, purchased at a knacker's yard, every morning into the muddy water, and allowing the leeches to gorge themselves at the expense of the horse's legs. His son, a boy of thirteen, used to ride the horse into the pond. A few days ago, the boy having gone alone upon that errand, the family were terrified by the horse coming back without its rider; its legs were bleeding profusely and covered with leeches. People went to the pond to look for the child, and found him immersed there, struggling feebly to extricate himself from the mire, and to defend himself from the hundreds of voracious creatures which had crawled under his clothes, (for he wore neither shoes nor stockings,) and had fixed upon every limb of his body. He had probably been thrown off the horse's back by the restlessness of the tormented animal. The poor boy was quite exhausted and speechless when he got out, and died in a few hours.

Singular Case of Deformity.—In June last, when Prince Albert opened the new building of the Royal Orthopœdic Hospital, in Oxford street, a patient was admitted with his legs doubled up under him, and his heels twisted inwards towards the ancles. He was lifted up towards his Royal Highness, and an effort made to move the limbs, but the contraction was too firm and rigid. The Prince appeared to feel much interested in the case, and desired to be informed of the result of the treatment of the hospital. On Saturday last the medical officers were enabled to make the gratifying report that the case was a complete cure. The tightened tendons of the hips, legs, and feet had been operated upon so successfully that the patient could not only stand but was walking about the wards of the hospital without the aid of a stick or crutch.

Fresh Meat Necessary to Labor. — In an elaborate paper by Dr. Londe, of the Imperial Academy of Medicine, Paris, recently read before its members, he lays it down as a fundamental principle in the philosophy of diet, that the use of fresh meat daily is necessary to the health of the working classes, although he admits that persons leading a comparatively idle life may do very well on fish, poultry, and other lighter forms of nourishment. In support of his opinions he produces a number of facts, of which the following is one: The Rouen Railway Company of France having conceded the working of their line to English engineers, the latter brought over a band of English laborers, who performed one-third more work daily than could be got out of the French laborers. The latter were put on meat diet, similar to that of the English workmen, and in a short time were able to do as much labor. If the conclusion of the doctor is correct, it becomes a matter of political as well as individual economy, that the price of fresh meat should be reduced low enough to allow laborers to eat animal food, otherwise the wealth of the nation is in danger of being diminished one-third.

Decline of Drunkenness in London. — The London *Economist* of the 23d ult. publishes an official tabular statement of the number of persons arrested for drunkenness within the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Police, from the year 1831 to 1855 inclusive, which shows that the number of drunken persons taken into custody in the first year was 31,353, and that in the latter year was only 19,267, while the population of the city had increased about 50 per cent. within the period included in the return. The tables do not embrace the jurisdiction of the City Police, under the orders of the corporation.

How to become Lean.—A master baker, so fat that he could not walk or lie down, was enabled to lose forty pounds in three months, and to diminish his abdominal equator by forty centimeters. The treatment prescribed for him was—for breakfast a beefsteak or cutlets, a cup of coffee and a small quantity of vegetables—for dinner, plenty of meat and little else; and a bottle or a bottle and a half of liquid per day. This instance is a comfortable assurance that even twenty stone need be no solid ground for despair.

Liquor Statistics.—There are in the United States 1217 distilleries, in which 5240 persons are employed; a capital of $8,507,674 is invested. They consume yearly 11,367,761 bushels of corn, 3,787,170 bushels of barley, 2.143,927 bushels of rye, 56,240 hogsheads of molasses. They manufacture 42,461,926 gallons of ale, 41,304 gallons of whiskey and high wines, and 6,500,000 gallons of rum — being about four gallons of liquor to every man, woman and child in the country.

Shaving the Beard.—Dr. Elliotson, in his "Human Physiology," 5th ed., says: It can not but be a custom most insulting to nature to shave off the beard, which, if kept in proper trim, as birds and beasts instinctively keep their plumage and hair in good order, completes the perfection of man's face, and the external distinction of the sexes; and, whatever ladies pretend to the contrary, renders him far more attractive to women—at any rate when custom has had time to lessen their seeming repugnance; for their preference to men with good whiskers is certain. Shaving was forbidden by Moses, and therefore, according to Jews and Christians, by God; it was a severe punishment among the Indians, and an irreparable insult among the Germans. The Osmanli swears by his beard, and spends half his day upon it. Shaving prevails in Europe because the kings of France set the example to their courtiers, who were followed by the nation, which formerly gave the *ton* to neighboring nations, and therefore was at length followed by all in this troublesome and unmanly fashion.

Preparations for Medical Lectures. — Circulars, pamphlets, and variously constructed typographical messages are coming through the post-office, almost daily, with descriptive advantages to be realized by students at the various institutions and schools. With the most praiseworthy determination to keep the honor of the profession unsullied, it is quite pardonable to gather large classes by advertising the facilities which exist for giving a complete course of medical instruction in any of them.

Medical Intelligence. — Although the journals are commendably supplied with original matter, there is nothing of a striking character in them of late. Many of the editors are travelling, and the press not having furnished very many remarkable works thus far in the season, nothing particularly important or novel can be expected. When the weather becomes cool and invigorating, writers may be expected to manifest their literary and scientific powers to the satisfaction of the medical public.

Petrified Rattlesnake. — The editor of the Red Bluff (Cal.) *Beacon* has been shown a stone snake, perfect in size and shape and appearance, even to the spots and rattles. This serpent was evidently coiled upon a rock, in a little hollow place, when a bank of earth fell upon and fastened him to the spot.

Flight of Birds.—Hawks, and many other birds, probably fly at the rate of 150 miles an hour; an elder-duck, at 90 miles an hour. Sir George Cayley computes the common crow to fly at nearly 25 miles an hour. Spallanzani found the rate of the swallow at about 92 miles an hour; while he conjectures the rapidity of the swift to be nearly three times greater. A falcon which belonged to Henry IV., of France, escaped from Fontainebleau, and in 24 hours afterward was found at Malta, a distance of not less than 1,530 miles; a velocity nearly equal to 57 miles an hour, supposing the falcon to have been unceasingly on the wing. But, as such birds never fly by night, and allowing the day to be at the longest, his flight was, perhaps, equal to 75 miles an hour. If we even restrict the migratory flight of birds to 50 miles an hour, how easily can they perform their most extensive migrations! Fair winds may perhaps aid them at the rate of 30 or 40 miles an hour; nay, with three times greater rapidity.

Famine in Norway. — The English papers give a painful picture of the suffering of the inhabitants of Lapland and Finland, bordering on the north cape of Norway. Owing to a failure of the crops, the inhabitants are in a state of starvation. "Hundreds are dying daily, and the living are compelled to subsist as they best can, on the bark of trees, ground and cooked with oats. In order to alleviate these sufferings, charitable committees have been organized on the opposite coasts of the Gulf of Bothnia, to collect contributions in kind, such as corn, flour, vegetables and spirits. As an addition to the suffering of these poor creatures, the cold is of a severity rarely experienced even in those ice-bound countries."

Statistics of Consumption. — Medical statistics appear to prove that consumption, where prevalent, originates as often in summer as in winter, and the best authorities declare that it is more common in hot than in cold climates. There is more consumption in the Tropical Indies, both East and West, than in the almost Arctic Canadas.

The number of the British troops attacked with this disease in Jamaica is annually twelve in one thousand, while in Canada it is only about six. The English government have accordingly resolved upon sending their consumptive soldiers to a cold, in preference to the warm, climate.

A Pension Claimant. — A resident of Illinois, one hundred and ten years of age, arrived in New York, who had walked the entire distance from his home in that State. The greatest day's travel upon this tedious journey was twelve miles. The old gentleman came to visit the east end of Long Island, in search of evidence of his services in the Revolutionary struggle by which to establish his claim to a pension. The reason of his walking was that he would not incur the risk of shortening his mortal career by riding on railroads. So strong was his prejudice against this mode of conveyance, that while in the upper part of the city, and desiring to come down to the Brooklyn ferries, on his way to his destination on Long Island, he could not be induced to ride in the Second Avenue horse-power railroad cars, but walked down, crossed the ferry, and pressed on to the end of his journey.

Singular Monstrosity.—A child was born at Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, in March last, thus described in a paper published there. It was the birth of a native child with four legs, and four perfectly formed feet. There were two limbs besides, neither legs nor arms, but mere stumps. The natural legs and feet were located as in any perfectly formed child; the other legs are placed in front of these and are smaller, as are also the feet. Perhaps the best idea we can give of it, to those who have not seen it, is that it resembles a perfectly formed child, excepting the addition of two extra but smaller legs just in front of the natural ones, and close above these third and fourth legs are the stumps of arms alluded to. The child has natural arms and hands in their proper position. Physicians think it may live, as it appears to be in a healthy condition. The mother, a native, is quite proud of her curiosity.

Witchery. — Some people may possibly believe the following paragraph, which is going the rounds: There is a girl in Grenada, Miss., who labors under the impression that she is bewitched. She wears a gold chain about her neck, and if it is not watched it will twist up and strangle her; remove it and she strangles; burn a lock of her hair, no matter at what distance from herself, and she shows signs of pain; shoot at the picture of the person who (she says) is the cause of her sufferings, with a lead bullet, and she is easy; present a gun with a silver bullet, and she is in spasms, but shoot the gun and she is calm again.

London. — London is the healthiest city in the world. It is calculated 600 people are drowned in the Thames every year. Mr. Mayhew calculates 169 people die daily, and a babe is born every five minutes. Last year the number of children born was 86,833. In the same period 56,786 persons died. According to the last reports there were 143,000 vagrants admitted in one year into the casual wards of the workhouses. It has 10,500 distinct streets, squares, circuses, crescents, terraces, villas, rows, buildings, places, lanes, courts, alleys, mews, yards, and rents.

A Venerable Man. — "Old Crele," of Columbia county, Wisconsin, is, according to the note of his baptism on the church records of Montreal, 130 years old, and he distinctly remembers a period of 117 years. He married at New Orleans a hundred years ago, and is now living with a grandchild upwards of 60 years old. He is still hale and hearty, and does not appear to be over seventy.

Hereditary Influences. — Speaking of the effect of intermarriage among blood relations, the Fredericksburg (Va.) *News* says: —

"In this country, in which we are raised for twenty generations back, certain families of wealth and respectability have intermarried until there can not be found in three or four of them a sound man or woman! One has sore eyes, another scrofula, a third is an idiot, a fourth blind, a fifth bandy-legged, a sixth with a head about the size of a turnip, with not one out of the number exempt from physical defects of some kind or other."

Moral Statistics of Norway. — From 1834 to 1850 there have been, for the whole of Norway, 30 illegitimate in every 100 births; in the district of Christiansand only, the rate was not more than 12 per 100, but in many of the agricultural districts it amounted to 67 per 100.

Silk. — A new species of silk-worm exists among the Yorubas in Central Africa, from which the natives spin a very fine thread. A single cocoon is several inches in diameter. This may perhaps form an important contribution to commerce and the appliances of civilization.

There is a man in Russell Co., Virginia, 115 years old, who, on his 100th birthday, made 100 rails.

Royal Venesection. — Elizabeth of Valois, daughter of Henry II. and Catherine de Medici, was the third wife of that monster in human form, Philip II. of Spain. Although really engaged to the king's son, Don Carlos, the father, having lost his second queen, concluded to take the young princess of fourteen himself. On her route from France to Spain, 1558, besides being accompanied by an enormous retinue of servants, gentlemen and ladies, of courtly standing, there were three chaplains, one physician in chief, a surgeon, and two apothecaries! She remained a queen after her arrival eight years, and unquestionably died in consequence of being bled profusely for the most trifling indisposition by the Spanish physicians. They bled her in childbirth, and whenever she happened to be ill, till she fainted, and then bled her again because she swooned. Dr. Sangrado, therefore, was no imaginary character, the invention of the author of Gil Blas.

Bleeding manias have returned every few years in various countries. It had its advocates in Dr. Rush's day, in America; it is resorted to universally in Turkey; and but a few years ago a physician had an immense popularity in one stratum of society, because he bled for everything. He boasted at a public meeting on one occasion that he had drawn fifty barrels of blood out of the Bostonians!

An aged soldier.—The oldest veteran in the Prussian service, named Karnasch, was buried on the 28th ult., at Pilsnitz, a small village near Breslau. He entered the army in the reign of Frederick the Great, and was at the time of his death 112 years of age.

Population of Great Britain. — The population of Scotland in 1856 was estimated at 3,033,177. It is probable the total population of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, at the present time, does not fall short of 29,000,000. The emigration to the British Colonies, from the mother country, is rapidly decreasing.

Poisoning Whiskey. — The Legislature of Ohio passed a law during the last session week, which makes it a State Prison offence to use *strychnine* in making whisky.

Endemic Ulcers. — Mr. Burton, in his volume of recent travels, called, *First Footsteps in East Africa*, says that ulcer is endemic in Southern Arabia, and frequently fatal, especially to the poorer classes of operatives.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

General good health throughout the United States, is the most gratifying and the most important intelligence of the day.

Yellow fever is announced at points, and much apprehension is expressed in regard to its course.

Col. Wm. R. Smith, who recently died near Warrington, Virginia, was the father of twenty-two children!

A woman residing in Pulaski, Va., is represented to have had a child every March, for sixteen successive years.

Some of the journals appear to make pretty liberal drafts upon others, without giving proper credit.

Soda drinking, to the excess to which it is carried in warm weather, is extremely injurious.

A man is living at Acton, State of Maine, at the age of 101 years, who was in the battle of Bunker Hill.

Cases of smallpox, to the disgrace of the nation, are continually breaking out in the country. Why not eradicate the disease by a simultaneous vaccination of all the people in the United States?

The Worcester Medical College graduated several females, with the degree of M. D., at the close of the term. Both sexes were in constant attendance on the lectures, throughout the course.

The Sultan of Turkey has given his decoration of the second class (the *Majidieh*) to Dr. Ed. Wild of Boston, for his valuable services as Staff Surgeon under Omar Pacha, in Circassia.

Dr. Moses Gunn, of Detroit, professor of surgery in the University of Michigan, has become associate editor of the Medical Independent and Monthly Review of Medicine and Surgery.

A gentleman recently died at Salem, Mass., who bequeathed to the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, the McLean Asylum for the Insane at Somerville, and the Perkins Institution for the Blind, in Boston, one thousand dollars each.

The proposal to have a small lead pipe laid from the Congress and Iodine Springs from Saratoga to Boston and New York, would not be so difficult to accomplish as laying down the Atlantic telegraph line between England and America.

Dr. Francisco Aranda, Minister of State and late Plenipotentiary Minister from Venezuela to the United States, has resigned.

One of the papers announces that the New York Academy of Medicine will discuss the National Hotel disease at one of the coming sessions.

The young wife of a canal boat captain attempted to poison herself at Rochester, by taking two ounces of laudanum, on account of domestic difficulties, but emetics and a severe application of whips to her body and limbs restored life after she had fallen into a comatose state.

Spiritualism is represented to be largely on the increase in New England. With the extremely fanatical tendency of the mind just at this time, it is by no means strange that the last, greatest mental excitant should have such multitudes of followers.

There are living in Marblehead at the present time, a family of six persons, two brothers and four sisters, whose average age is 79 1-2 years. Capt. Elkins, the eldest of the family, is 87, and is in the regular habit of going out in the bay, fishing, when the weather is suitable.

At the University in Cambridge, three miles from Boston, grave experiments were instituted by mediums to convince certain savans of that institution that moving a table by invisible power, is no more of a humbug than the teachings of some professors.

The skeleton of the late Dr. Warren has been entirely divested of the soft parts, and as soon as the bones have been wired together, the osseous remains of that good man are to be suspended in the anatomical theatre of the Medical College in Grove street, in front of the identical table where he used to lecture on human anatomy.

Mr. John Preston, the manufacturing chemist, Purchase st., Boston, has brought out an entirely new and delicate article for hoarseness, sore throat, dryness of the fauces, &c. &c. which is represented to be excellent. It is the condensed oil of cocoa—which readily melts on the tongue, and gives an agreeable sensation and immediate relief.

The Medical Chronicle and Montreal Monthly Journal of Medicine and Surgery, edited by William Wright, M. D., and D. C. McCullum, M. D., appeared in an improved form on the first of June. No. 1, vol. V., is an excellent specimen of their skill in the management of a medical periodical, and should be liberally sustained by the profession of the Canadas.

Physicians are luxuriating in the way of short jaunts to the watering places, the mountains, &c., and very many are on tours of exploration at the extreme territories of the West.

A lunatic in the Worcester, Mass., Insane Hospital struck a carpenter attached to the premises with a hammer, which had just been laid down, and fractured the unfortunate man's skull.

Some idea of the demand for the services of female physicians may be formed from the fact that one of them, in Boston, attended professionally, sixteen births in four weeks, ending with the last. They were at first encouraged by the leading and most prominent physicians of the city, a few years since, to attend to that particular branch of practice. Now some of the unsuccessful gentlemen, of a later generation, wish these meddling women were at the bottom of the Red Sea. This is not loving thy neighbor as thyself.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, JULY, 1857.

Sustaining Irregular Medical Practice.—Some few weeks ago, this journal had a page of comments, based on the representation that a medical college in Georgia had decided to revoke its diplomas in case those upon whom they had been conferred, should depart from the system of practice in which they had been educated. By referring back to No. 10, page 183, vol. II., the reader will find an argument, of a character not to give offence, and yet presenting a dignified opinion, that, legally, no such revocation is within the jurisdiction of any chartered institution. To swear a pupil never to depart from the exact letter of instruction which he had received, would put a stop to all scientific progress, and chain the mind to dogmas that might as often be false as true, since men of learning differ essentially in their views, although each and all are presumed to be honestly expecting to accomplish far more than any of them may realize.

But, in that same pleasant State of Georgia, in which, according to the paragraphs that have been floating through the journals, the legislature has acted singularly, and, in defiance of the highest conservative medical sentiment, in 1842, granted $5000 to the Southern Botanic Medical College; and when the edifice was destroyed by fire, so lately as 1854, it was rebuilt, in part, by liberal subscriptions; and in 1856, the legislature appropriated another sum of $5000. This, therefore, in the estimation of a genuinely edu-

cated medical gentleman, is an unblushing recognition of downright quackery, since Thomsonism is positively regarded as nothing more nor less than irregular practice, at several points of compass.

Now, the wonder very naturally arises, how happens it that while numbers of the profession are exerting themselves to elevate the study of medicine, the people, through their representatives, are pursuing a course diametrically opposite? In Massachusetts all kinds of medical schools are chartered,—but no money is given. They are left to quarrel among themselves in an open field, if they choose to do so, without molestation. And further, no one order of physicians has a legal advantage over another in the collection of their dues. In short, there are no close corporation privileges accorded to any, but equal protection, by law granted to all.

This is a singular feature, considering the tendency of an old State to rule with a considerable degree of perpendicularity, especially where corporations, like individuals, are perpetually grasping for more power and privileges.

One of the certain correctors of error, whether political, moral, or medical, is free, unembarrassed discussion. Allow the lowest order of quacks to organize for instruction, and their identity would soon be lost. The very measures they might adopt, as an institution, for perpetuating one idea, would enlarge their sphere of thought as well as aspirations, and in a very few removes from the original stock, they would be lost sight of, in consequence of gradually coalescing with their opponents. Again, any legislative efforts to sustain a particular class of medical practitioners, to the neglect of others, whether ignorant or learned, in this democratic country, would prove their ruin and final social extinction.

On the whole, therefore, by the gradual process now going on in the United States for elevating the whole by diffusing the blessings of universal education, there is nothing to fear, but an abundance to hope for by tolerating and sustaining the different schools of medicine.

Bearding the Lion in his Den. — An introductory discourse, by J. Boring, M. D., before the students of the Atlanta Medical College, Georgia, at the commencement of the lecture term in May, was on the *Use and Abuse of Tobacco*. It is quite certain that the professor neither chews nor smokes. He never would have been so sweepingly denunciatory had he been a smoker of the best Havanas. Why, he looks with positive horror upon a woman who chews tobacco! Perhaps his prejudice against the practice was strengthened by seeing "a young girl of fourteen or fifteen years of age indulging the foulest of habits." If any of the class happen to be addicted to the use of tobacco in any form, it is quite certain it will require some self-denial to abstain while in Prof. Boring's lecture-room. The Rev. Mr. Trask will take courage on discovering that a Southerner, and he too a learned member of an honored profession, has had the independence to hold up to view the inconveniences and injuries, independently of the violations of all common laws of propriety while standing on a Brussels carpet, resulting from the vile custom of chewing.

Perhaps Dr. Boring may have been early addicted to the use of tobacco. Great saints, in a multitude of instances, were great sinners before their conversion, and extremely vindictive temperance reformers were once slaves to the cup.

Aside from all attempts at pleasantry, however, we acknowledge ourselves gratified and instructed by the bold truths which the professor has so fearlessly uttered. He has scattered seed, too, where it will germinate advantageously. His pupils, acting upon his principles personally, and spreading abroad whenever they may practise, at the completion of their medical education, will have an influence on the community at large. There is an actual preparation for commencing a Southern reform. Here at the North we have imbibed the notion that everybody at the South indulges in tobacco. It is an offensive, yet almost universal habit in the New England States, to chew or smoke. Some follow both, to the destruction of their health, but lack the moral resolution to abstain from indulgence. Smoking, which is an intolerable general nuisance, is largely on the increase in all the Northern and Western States. So it is over the whole continent of Europe. In Turkey, Syria, Persia, and Egypt, it is the essential business of life.

Metropolitan Hospitals. — A correspondent states there are fourteen hospitals in New York. Whether the Jew's, in West Twenty Eighth street, one of the best conducted of any of them, is included, cannot be determined. Of course, a large number of physicians and surgeons are necessarily in daily attendance, which gives activity to the profession, and leads to the advancement of science.

In Boston there is one large, well-managed hospital. If there were half a dozen they would be in demand. The Lying-In Hospital is going to decay, having neither money, patients nor patrons. The city might purchase it for a charity hospital, but probably will not. The corporation of the Female Medical College contemplate the establishment of an institution, analogous to what that was in the days of its prosperity. Why not buy the property at once? Whenever they want funds, they have invariably been raised by voluntary subscriptions.

One of the difficulties in the way of a free city hospital, is the fear that it may become the monopoly of a few medical aspirants, to the exclusion of all others — even those who might be taxed, in proportion to their means, for its support. If one could be organized upon purely democratic principles, — rotation in office, — giving all the physicians of Boston an oppor-

tunity to officiate in turn, the influence of those whom the knowing ones unquestionably would strive to keep out, it would turn the scale, and lead to the creation of the charity, on a liberal plan, immediately.

It is a reproach to any profession, claiming to act upon high principles of Christian philanthropy, that the jealousies of ambitious individuals should interfere with the exercise of the best impulses of humanity. Open a subscription for a free hospital in Boston, without those restrictions that are imagined might be laid upon it by medical wire-pullers, and half a million of dollars could be raised by the time the structure were in readiness for the reception of the sick poor.

ALUM SPRINGS OF VIRGINIA. — Messrs. Frazier & Randolph, proprietors of these mineral fountains, have sent abroad a pamphlet, abounding in certificates of its efficacy in a variety of diseases; but the reputation of the water is already established, and hardly requires any new collection of facts to induce invalids to visit the place.

The hot, warm, sulphur, and other medicinal springs of Virginia are among the great curiosities of this continent. They are worth a jaunt from any part of the country, as geological wonders. But when we associate a curative property, there is a still stronger inducement for seeing and tasting. Chemists of high distinction have given analyses of these waters, and thus put it within the power of the physician to determine, with scarcely a moment's reflection, the amount of benefit to be derived from each and all of them.

To save the labor of searching through a library for the facts, the following analyses are appended: —

Description and Analysis of three Samples of Rockbridge Alum Water from Virginia.

The samples presented perfectly clear, colorless, and odorless water; the taste was very stringent, with the more lasting impression produced by iron salts. In closed vessels the water may be heated without becoming turbid, but boiling causes ochry matter to fall. In the composition of the Rockbridge waters much more of the salts of alumina is found than in the Bath Alum water.

ROCKBRIDGE, No. 1.

A standard gallon at 60° F. contains, —

Of bases: —		Protoxide of iron,	1.748
Sodium and soda,	0.250	Of acids: —	
Potash, traces.		Sulphuric acid,	32.626
Ammonia,	0.471	Carbonic "	2 623
Lime,	0.594	Organic "	0.930
Magnesia,	0.368	Silicic "	2.460
Alumina,	4.420	Chlorine "	0.257 grs.

The changes which take place in these waters by boiling, the action of sulphydric acid and salts of silver, indicate that these proximate constituents are combined to form the following salts: —

Sulphate of lime,	1.439	Free sulphuric acid,	18.789
" magnesia,	1.081	" carbonic acid,	2.623
Protoxide of iron,	3.683		
Alumina,	14.764		46.747 grs.
Chloride sodium,	0.423	Pure water,	58325.253
Silicate of soda,	2.544		
Crenate of ammonia,	1.401		58372.000

SAMPLE OF ROCKBRIDGE ALUM, No. 2.

One gallon of this sample measured at 60° F. contains the following substances:

As bases: —		Alumina,	5.360
Potash,	0 954	As acids: —	
Sodium,	0.401	Sulphuric acid,	34.219
Ammonia,	0.300	Carbonic "	7.356
Lime,	1.346	Crenic "	0.400
Magnesia,	0.600	Silicic "	2.840
Protoxide of iron,	2.304	Chlorine "	0.607

The acids unite to the basis, forming salts of the following weight:

Sulphate of potash,	1.765	Free sulphuric acid,	15.225
" lime,	3.263	Carbonic "	7.356
Sulphate of magnesia,	1.763		
Protoxide of iron,	4.863		56.687
Alumina,	17.905	Pure water,	58315.312
Crenate of ammonia,	0.700		
Chloride of sodium,	1.00½		58372.000
Silicic acid,	2.840		

SAMPLE OF ROCKBRIDGE ALUM, No. 4.

One gallon of this sample afforded —

As bases: —		Alumina,	7.210
Potash, traces.		Organic matter,	1.020
Sodium,	0.173	Of acids: —	
Ammonia,	0.360	Sulphuric acid,	29.686
Lime,	1.346	Carbonic "	4.203
Magnesia,	1.503	Chlorine "	0.266
Protoxide of iron,	2.223	Silicic "	1.710
		Crenic "	0.960

Those substances combined as salts give the following constituents:

Chloride of sodium,	0.439	Free silicic acid,	1.710
Sulphate of lime,	3.261	Organic matter,	1.020
" magnesia,	4 418		
Protoxide of iron,	4.693		50.560
Alumina,	24.085		58321.440
Crenate of ammonia,	1.220		
Free sulphuric acid,	5.511		58372.000
" carbonic "	4.203		

In comparing these samples with those of the Bath Alum Springs, it will be seen that they are more highly acid in composition, and contain besides more of the tri-sulphate of alumina, in a given volume. This salt gives character and activity to these waters, and renders them subjects of great interest when used as remedial agents.

The general conclusions following from the results of these analyses are, that the Bath Alum Springs, containing more ferruginous salts, and having the sulphuric acid more equally neutralized, approach more nearly in composition to chalybeate waters. While the proportions of the salts to the pure water may vary, the relation in *kind* will be preserved.

The Rockbridge Alum waters, on the other hand, have their iron salts almost masked in their action by the predominance of free sulphuric acid and tri-sulphate of alumina. In these, too, we may expect the same general relation of *kind* to prevail, although more or less of the salts is present in the water. Both contain a portion of iron oxide, united to organic compounds, which, independently of the other salts and acids, would constitute them chalybeate waters. In their origin they are quite pure surface waters, which percolating strata undergoing decomposition, take from them their soluble mineral and organic matters. Respectfully,

AUG. A. HAYES, M. D.,
Assayer to the State of Mass.

DROP-GAUGE. — Every one is familiar with the difficulty of dropping liquid medicines from a phial. A certain number of drops is not an unfrequent expression, for a dose. To obviate this embarrassment, and at the same time conform precisely to the letter of a prescription, a Mr. Chase, of Boston, has invented a simple glass gauge, not unlike a small glass syringe, which allows the escape of drops, with extreme regularity,—and the number is controlled by a pressure of the thumb on a piston, so that there is never a *drop too much.*

But conveniences in all departments of life have been multiplied by the inventive ingenuity of man, till they are burthensome. Surgical apparatus, officinal preparations and theoretical speculations in reference to the treatment of diseases, are also on the increase, without gaining a corresponding advantage in the direction where they are generally recommended.

MARRIAGES.

Dr. Francis Howe, of Newburyport, Mass., to Miss M. F. Lewis.

THE

MEDICAL WORLD.

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POPULAR MEDICAL ERRORS.

I have heard people remark, in the slighter cases of scarlet fever, that they supposed the disease to be only scarlatina. It may be well just to observe that this supposed distinction between scarlatina and scarlet fever has no scientific foundation, and is simply a popular misunderstanding. Dr. Watson has alluded to this notion in his valuable lectures on the "Practice of Physic," to which I have already referred. "I need scarcely remind you of a sort of mystification which prevails among the public about this complaint, and which many practitioners, for no good reason that I can see, seem disposed to encourage. Mistaking the Latin and scientific name of the disease for a mere diminutive, you will hear mammas say, 'Oh! my children have not got the *scarlet fever*, but only the *scarlatina*.' I always disabuse them of this absurd error when the opportunity of doing so occurs. It can produce nothing but confusion, and a disregard of requisite precautions."[1] There is a distinction, however, in the terms used to distinguish the mild form of the complaint, from that in which the throat is implicated, the former being called scarlatina-simplex, and the latter scarlatina-anginoxa (from the Greek word αγχω, to strangle). The knowledge that there is such a distinction will, of course, do much to keep up the error alluded to.

Bleeding Dark Blood. — It is very common for patients to remark on the color of the blood removed by the application of leeches. They will say — "It is very well, doctor, that I have been bled, for the blood was very bad — as black as your hat." The leech-women generally maintain similar views, and the practitioner is perhaps pleased to find a new argument adduced in favor of the steps which he has taken in having his patient bled. Of course there is a real peculiarity in the blood removed from different patients; but the profession are not in the habit, and indeed not capable, of judging in this summary manner by the darkness or lightness of the color. The blood removed by leeches has generally the aspect of venous blood, being principally from the minute vessels which form the extreme ramifications of the arteries and veins, and which carry blood of a dark and venous character. Whilst on the subject of blood-letting, I may mention a fear which exists, that when bleeding has been once performed, it will be requisite to have it repeated periodically. If the necessity for blood-letting has arisen from causes which are likely to be permanent, it is true that it may again be necessary to have recurrence to the same treatment; but it is too much to say that the mere fact of taking blood imposes on us the necessity of repeating it periodically.

Again, there is an idea that leeches placed near the eyes weaken the sight. It is very certain that profuse bleedings, which drain the system of blood, and produce extreme palidity, may, and do often, occasion at least a temporary failure of vision; but this is no reason why we should object to a leech or two, as many do, on the ground that their application weakens the sight.

Lungs Affected.—We often hear people ask whether their lungs are affected. Now, by the term *affected*, they imply something very serious; but the expression is, of course, a vague one, and may be applied with propriety to derangements of a very slight nature. Carelessness in the use of words is a frequent source of error with the public in respect to medical subjects. A man will tell you that he has a disease of his liver, when perhaps it is only a little disordered. The terms *disease* and *disorder* have nothing in their etymology to render them particularly applicable to one or the other condition; but conventionally

1. Op. cit. p. 754, vol. 2.

there is a great difference, disease being mostly applied to actual structural changes in the organ, and disorder to mere disturbances or functional derangements (that is, derangements in the office or function of the part); but this is never known or attended to by the public, and hence, very many mistakes. The term *affected* of course may mean something or nothing. A person in the last stage of consumption has his lungs affected, but so also has every one who has the most trifling cough. Take the common dictionary meaning of the term, and it will do very well for its application to disease. There is nothing different in its appropriation to medical subjects.

Fire got out of Burns.—I never properly knew what people wish us to understand when they say that "the fire is not got out of burns," I really imagine some people suppose the fire to have actually entered the part, and to be inside of it. This view, of course, is so absurd that I will not insult the understanding of the reader by stopping to refute it. If the term be applied to the first or painful and inflammatory stage, it is allowable enough; but as I think it *does* exercise a sort of impression upon many that the fire is a something to be *got out*, it would be better that this metaphorical mode of speaking were altogether abandoned. In this, as in many other instances which I have brought forward, it may be well to remark that many of these sayings are happily understood by those who employ them for no more than their true value, and therefore only to be considered as figurative expressions; but I am convinced that there are a very great many who believe them literally, and are more guided by them than by anything which can be said by their professional advisers.

Lungs completely gone.—Nothing is more common than to hear people gravely state that their lungs are gone. This may be unfortunately to a great extent true in cases of consumption, where the patient is in the last stage of existence—at least if it be meant to say that the healthy structure of the lung is spoiled by disease—death soon following this entire demolition of the pulmonary tissue. The public are, however, by no means content to restrict the term to these fatal examples; a patient will tell us, with all the confidence in the world that Dr. So-and-So has assured him that one of his lungs is entirely gone; or will tell us that a friend of his had one of his lungs quite "gone" (they like this word gone), but set out for the Madeiras, and now is as well as he ever was in his life. Such cases, of course, are quite untrue. I cannot myself imagine that consumption ever goes on to any *great extent* in one lung without affecting the other; and certainly if it arrived at a point of complete disorganization of one lung, the patient could not survive. One lung undoubtedly may be greatly condensed by pleuristic effusion (altogether, however, unconnected with consumption), and even the side of the chest be contracted, without causing a fatal result; but this is not what is meant by the lung being *gone*, and does not even depend on any disease at all going on in the lung itself. I think, with respect to this idea of the lung being *gone*, the profession is itself to blame—many members of it using terms which foster the mistake, or encourage the idea with a view to increase their own reputation. I have myself always sought to contradict these popular errors wherever I have heard them.

Midwifery.—Great importance is attached by the public to particular days and periods. Now there is in reality a curious law of periodicity in the animal world, but the public have not always been happy in hitting upon the real examples, and greatly alters the point of fact. The ninth day of a confinement is well known to be considered a most important day. The lady may live as she likes on the eighth; but on the ninth, if she does not keep strictly to her bed, it is ten to one if she gets well at all. Some rather more reasonably fancy that the nine first days are to be devoted to quietude; and as this reading has some good effect, it is not so very objectionable. However, in reality, the ninth day is of no more importance than the eighth or the tenth, and the particular importance attached to it is only a kind of superstition. In the same way people say that "a seven months' child" is more likely to live than an eight months' child, but they cannot tell you why; and how this idea arose it is difficult to say: a fondness for paradoxes may have had a share in it.[2]

It would require a treatise to enumerate all the absurd stories which nurses have collected in respect to obstetric medicine.

Of putting the Neck out and in.—There are few people who have been sporting characters who have not some story to tell about having seen a man put out his neck. They will tell you that no sooner had their friend dislocated his neck than some skilful fellow stepped forward, and putting one leg upon each of his shoulders, set to work, and presently

2. Ramsbotham says this error is as old as Hippocrates.

pulled it in again; after which the poor fellow mounted, and rode away as if nothing had happened. With all due deference to our sporting friends, these stories are altogether fabrications. A real dislocation of the neck would be immediately fatal. I once told a person so; but he cut me short by saying that he had seen the thing himself. "The neck was all wrong, but a good pull set it to rights." There is no reasoning against such philosophers, and therefore it is better to attack them in print.

Eyes Washed. — The same kind of people will tell you they have been present at surgical operations where the eyes have been cut out, a skin removed, and then replaced as if nothing had happened. It is not always easy for a professional man to know how to answer such people. It would be a bore to both parties to enter into a serious refutation of the subject. I may again state that many of the things which I relate as popular notions may seem too absurd for any degree of credulity; but most of what I have said I have heard repeated more than once, and am firmly convinced that it was believed to be true.

We may be disposed to treat common notions as a parcel of silly stories, not deserving the troble of a serious consideration; but when we find them in practice continually starting up, we are constrained either to join in them or deny them.

Gout. — People say that boils are healthy, or that the gout is healthy; but in these speeches, if they have any meaning at all, there is an elliptical idea. We might say that bleeding was salutary, or rhubarb and magnesia salutary; but then we should presume that there was a state of disease to be corrected. Now, allowing a certain amount of disorder to be actually *present*, an attack of the gout *may* be favorable, *not* because it is good in *itself*, but because, mischief being actually present, the gout is the means of eliminating the *materies morbi*. In this view of the subject, indeed, many of our diseases might be called healthy. However, we frequently find people congratulating themselves on the gout, or a friend will tell you, if you show him a painful boil, "that you may thank your stars, inasmuch as it is an indication of full health." In my own view, neither the gout nor the presence of boils is any proof of good health, but rather a proof of the contrary.

Lancing the Gums. — I do not conceive the operation of lancing the gums in children is desirable merely in facilitating the passage of the teeth, but in relieving the tension and fullness of the part. Surgeons frequently make incisions in parts which are inflamed, without any other object, than that of diminishing undue tension. Sometimes it is necessary, therefore, to lance the gums of children when we do not anticipate the immediate protrusion of the teeth. Mothers, however, who like to reason about these things, will occasionally tell us that, "they are not advocates for the lancing of gums." They will tell us that the parts become harder afterwards, and thus the passage of the teeth is impeded instead of being advanced. This idea is probably derived from seeing the cicatrices of wounds and burns, which certainly often present very hard ridges; but the analogy does not seem to hold good, for I have never myself felt any similar ridge in the gums of children. Besides, however hard these cicatrices may feel to the touch, they do not seem in reality to be very capable of resisting the process of ulceration, or what is called interstitial absorption. Sir Astley Cooper, in his "Lectures on Surgery," makes an interesting allusion to Lord Anson's voyage, which has a bearing on this subject. "Lord Anson's book," says he, "is one of the most valuable works which has appeared on nautical subjects; nor is it without its use as illustrative of a principle in surgery. Lord Anson's expedition to the Pacific Ocean was undertaken with a view of destroying the power of Spain in the New World. As he was obliged to sail sooner than he expected, many of the crew which he took out were invalids; some having *cicatrices*, and others having previously had fractured bones. In his passage round Cape Horn, he encountered very severe weather. Many ships were obliged to return, some were lost, and the crews of those which succeeded in getting at last to the Isle of Juan Fernandez suffered great hardships." [3]

"In doubling Cape Horn, the crew suffered severely from attacks of the scurvy; and it was remarked by the clergyman, who was an observing man, although he knew nothing of our profession, that the men who had ulcers before were invariably attacked with ulceration in the same parts, and that if their bones had been formerly fractured, they became disunited." "There cannot," continues he, "be a better example than this for the purpose of showing the readiness with which newly formed parts ulcerate, as compared with the original structures of the body."

3. Astley Cooper's Lectures on Surgery (small edition), p. 59.

IMPORTANT LEGAL DECISION,

RELATIVE TO MEMBERSHIP OF AN INCORPORATED MEDICAL SOCIETY.

JOHN D. HILL VS. THE ERIE CO. MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The Erie County Society derives its corporate powers from the Legislature of New York, by virtue of a general law of 1813. In his decision, Judge Marvin remarks: —

"By the 13th section, the societies are authorized to make such by-laws and regulations, relative to the affairs, concerns, and property of said societies; relative to the admission and expulsion of members; relative to such donations or contributions as a majority of the members at their annual meetings shall think fit and proper; provided that such by-laws, rules, and regulations be not contrary to, nor inconsistent with, the constitution and laws of this State," &c.

One of the by-laws of the Society fixed a minimum price at which its members might attend, professionally, the County Alms House. Doctor Hill agreed to render professional attendance at a less rate; for this he was expelled. He then brought an action against the Society, by sueing out a mandamus.

Judge Marvin remarks in reference to this by-law: —

"The regulation was not only unauthorized by the law, but it is in conflict with well settled principles of law. It was the result of a combination to coerce the public authorities of Erie County, and the city of Buffalo, to make a certain compensation for certain medical services, not less than a minimum sum fixed. Such a combination is, I have no doubt, unlawful at common law. It is in restraint of the right of the public authorities and the individual members of the society.

"It is made the duty of the superintendents of the poor to appoint a physician for the Poor House. Act of 1851, 532. And yet if the regulation of the Medical Society of Erie County is to prevail, and is to be obeyed by the members of the Society, the superintendents of the poor will not be able to procure the medical services of any one of the members of the Society without paying the compensation fixed, and without any regard to the state of health of the County poor, or the amount of services that may be required. A physician, entirely competent, may be willing to render the services for half the sum fixed in the tariff, and yet if he adhere to the regulation he must decline the appointment. This entire regulation is in conflict with the law of the land, and cannot be sustained. It conflicts with the law and its policy, in relation to contracts and trade. The law permits and encourages great freedom in contracts and in trade, and is constantly inviting competition. The skill of the professional man is his capital in trade, and he has a right to employ it for a compensation, satisfactory to him, and thus obtain a livelihood.

* * * * * * *

In conclusion:

1. The regulation in question was unauthorized. 2. It was unreasonable. 3. It was against public policy and the law. 4. The disfranchisement of the relator was unauthorized and illegal.

It follows that he must be restored or recognized as a member of the medical society and permitted without molestation to enjoy all the rights and privileges of a member.—*Med. Independ.*

PROFESSORIAL CHANGES.

Prof. R. M. Huston has resigned the Chair of Materia Medica and Therapeutics in Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, in consequence of ill health, and Prof. Thos. D. Mitchell has been appointed to fill the vacancy.

Prof. Mitchell has long been a popular teacher of this important branch of Medical Science, and if he has not the vigor of early manhood, he has the mature experience of age. He will doubtless be an acceptable teacher, and the popularity of the institution will not be diminished by the change.

Several changes have taken place in Rush Medical College. Chicago, Prof. J. Evans and Wm. B. Herrick, who have long been connected with the school and contributed much to its standing, have resigned, retiring from the profession. Prof. H. A. Johnson has also resigned the Chair of Materia Medica and Medical Jurisprudence. He has, however, been appointed to the Chair of Physiology and Pathology, which Prof. Herrick held, leaving the chair of Materia Medica vacant, as well as that of Obstetrics, formerly occupied by Prof. Evans. The latter of these has been filled by the appointment of W. H. Byford, M. D., of Indiana; and the former by John H. Rauch, M. D., of Iowa.

Dr. Byford stands well in his locality as a man of ability in his profession. Of the

position of Dr. Rauch we have no knowledge, but the North Western Journal, the organ of the school, represents him as a man of scientific attainments.

The Medical College of Ohio, located at Cincinnati, and the Miami Medical College of the same city have "consolidated." The Miami ceases to exist, and four of her faculty go into the Ohio College; as many of that faculty going out. In the arrangement, our venerable friend, Prof. R. D. Mussey, who was at the head of the Miami, is left out, and our able younger friend, Prof. Armor of the Ohio, also retires. The Ohio *Medical Observer* announces that it "is not comprehended in any of these consolidated enterprises." — *Penin. Jour. Med.*

Massachusetts Registration. — The fourteenth annual report relating to the registry and return of births, deaths and marriages in Massachusetts for 1855, has been published. It makes a work of 272 pages, and is probably the most complete and extensive publication of the kind ever issued in the country. Abstracts and tables have been condensed from the returns, and arranged for convenient use, by Dr. Edward Strong, and other clerks employed in the Secretary's office. We cull interesting facts from its prolific pages.

Population of the State in 1855		1,132,369
Whole number of Births		32,845
	Males	16,785
	Females	16,888
	Sex unknown	172
Parentage:	American	15,947
	Foreign	13,709
	Am. father and for. mother	786
	For. father and Am. mother	831
	Parentage unknown	1,573
Whole number of Marriages		12,329
Nativity:	American	6,919
	Foreign	4,269
	Am. male and for. female	467
	For. male and Am. female	487
	Nativity unknown	188
Whole number of deaths		28,798
	Males	10,285
	Females	10,386
	Sex unknown	127
	No. whose age was reported	20,543
	Aggregate age	563,396 years.
	Average age	27 43-100 years.

No marriage is reported as having occurred during the year 1854 or 1855 in the town of Hancock, in the county of Berkshire, a town numbering, by the last census, 848 inhabitants. There were 13 births reported for the year 1855. No other towns within the Commonwealth show an entire deficiency in this respect, except the small town of Winthrop, in the county of Suffolk, and Auburn, in Worcester County.

The following towns reported only one marriage each, during the year, viz.: Cheshire, in Berksire county, with 1,532 inhabitants; Middleton, in Essex county, having 880 inhabitants, and reporting 21 births and 11 deaths during the year; Nahant, in the same county, with a population of 270; Monroe, in Franklin county, with 21 inhabitants; Montgomery, in Hampden county, with 413; Boxborough, in Middlesex county, with 413; Halifax, in Plymouth county, with 786; and Rutland, in the county of Worcester, with 1,102 inhabitants, and reporting 27 births and 29 deaths.

The towns of Alford, Clarksburg, Mt. Washington and New Ashford, in the county of Berkshire, report two marriages only; as do also Erving, in Franklin county, Holland and Wales, in Hampden county, Prescott, in Hampshire county, North Chelsea, in Suffolk county, and Boylston in Worcester county.

Preceding reports have shown that the most usual time for contracting a first marriage by both parties, has been between the ages of 20 and 25 for both sexes. The next greatest number of first marriages have occurred in the period of from 25 to 30 among males, and from 20 to 25 among females; and the third greatest number in the period between the ages of 20 and 25 among males, and including females under 20. By the tables of the present report, the first period remains precisely the same as heretofore, and included 2,648 first marriages, and 2,733 of all descriptions of marriages. Of the second period for the year 1855, of males from 25 to 30, and females under 20, there were 1,752 first marriages, and 1,777 of all descriptions; and in the third period, of males from 25 to 30 and females from 20 to 25, there were 1,710 first marriages, and 1,887 of all others. In 147 cases of first marriages both parties were under 20 years of age.

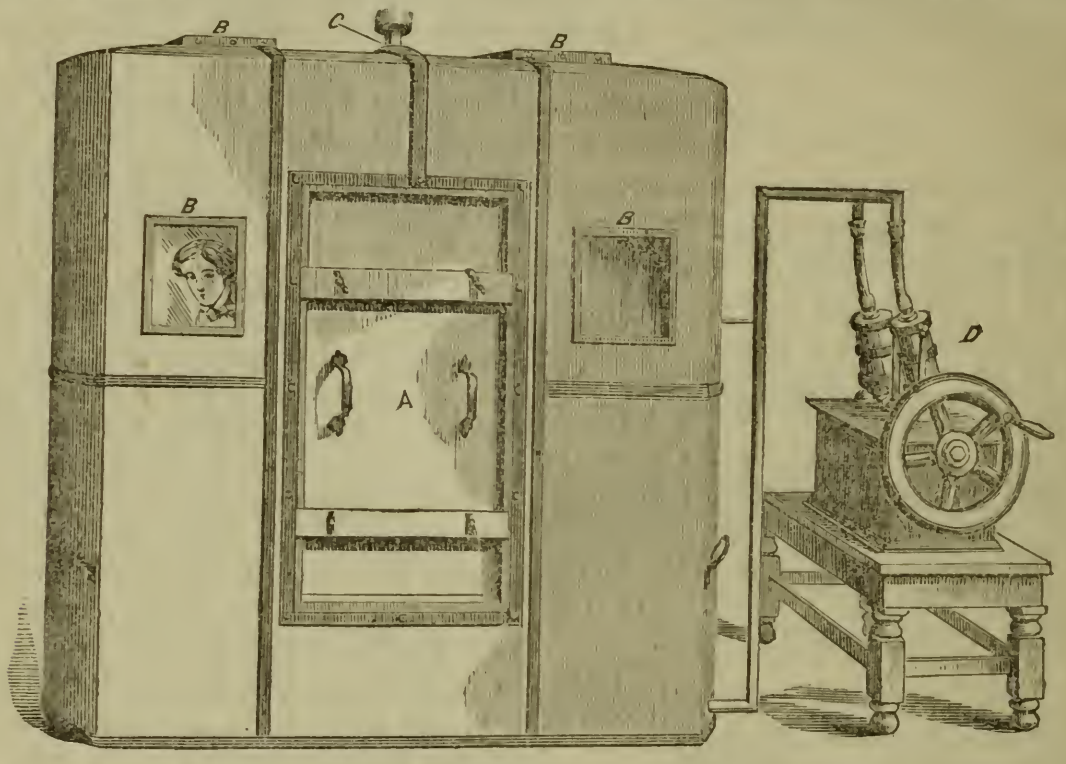
Among the males married for the first time, one under 30 was joined to a maiden over 55. Another maiden over 55 was married to a bachelor between 50 and 55 years of age. One female, also a maiden, and between 70 and 75 years of age, married a widower over 80. Five females and thirty-seven males had arrived at more than 70 years of age before their last marriage; and two of the men were over 80, and two of the women were over 75 years of age.

During the year the youngest male who was married was a youth of 16 to a bride of 17. Seven grooms of 17 years were united to

brides severally, one of 14, 16, 17 and 19 each, and three of 21. The youngest female was a girl of 13 years to a man of 21. One male of 16 of age, seven of 17, fifty-three of 18, one hundred and forty-seven of 19, and ninety of 20, were married for the first time; and ten females of 14, forty-three of 15, and seventy-three of 16, were married also for the first time.

The greatest number of deaths occurred in the months of September and August, confirming the opinion based upon former reports, that these months are the most sickly in Massachusetts. During the month of September there were 2520 deaths, and in August 2365. The other months are ranked, in this respect, in the following order: October, March, July, April, December, January, May, February, November and June. In June, the healthiest month, as far as can be shown by the registration of deaths, there were reported, for record during the year 1855, 1405 deaths throughout the Commonwealth.

COMMUNICATIONS.



MEDICAL HYGIENE IN PULMONARY DISEASE,—THE COMPRESSED AIR-BATH.

BY G. H. TAYLOR, M. D.

THERE is no wider field for indulgence in wanton speculation by the medical theorist, nor one that more richly rewards the arts of the unscrupulous charlatan, than that presented by the various forms of pulmonary disease. The most obvious inference is, that in the ardor of seeking for some new medical specific, the pathology of this class of diseases has not been considered in that plain and common sense, and therefore philosophical, light of which it is capable. Hence it is no wonder that the empiricism that prevails has become the opprobrium of the medical art, or that the treatment of this class of diseases is so often consigned to the most graceless speculators in human life. All parties are too well satisfied when the senses are deceived by the most temporary, though questionable means of palliation; while the disease progresses in its fatal course without so much as provoking an inquiry on the part of the patient or friends, as regards the *cause*, with the view of eliciting thence a proper remedial course.

Observation shows, and it will be generally conceded that particular pursuits and habits of life tend powerfully to fix pulmonary disease on certain subjects, thus constitutionally predisposed, or having a pulmonic *diathesis*. These constitutional traits are well marked, and are such, generally, as deny, under the peculiar straits into which the system may be placed, as full and complete access of air to the blood, as those enjoy who are not liable to this form of disease. On the contrary, persons whose capacities were originally quite perfect, but whose habits of life permit but a

limited access of air, suffer a similar liability to pulmonary disease. Hence we find the same cause—restricted use of air, through the influence of calling, habit, &c.—will precipitate a tendency that is hereditary in one case, and form that tendency in the other. Thus females in certain, though diverse, positions in life; men whose calling or inclination restrains them within doors, and those portions of the country whose rigorous climate or pecuniary prosperity incline people to habits of effeminancy, yield a comparatively larger proportion of victims to this form of disease. It is equally well known by the profession, that many species of the lower animals even, when treated in a similar way, that is, are denied a sufficient amount of air, will die, after a time of tubercular disease.

It is quite unnecessary to the present purpose to enter upon a discussion of the chemical or morphological nature of tubercle, though we might, in this connection, make some incidental inferences as to its mode of formation.

In ordinary constitutions and states of the system, whenever causes of disease of sufficient force occur, then immediately supervenes a general fever, or an inflammation, or both. The fever is the means whereby there is ultimately attained the oxydation of all those constituents of the blood that are amenable to the process, while inflammation is a local demand for arterialization. But in persons disposed to consumption the case is different. The quickened arterial action that is well known to be a concomitant of this disease, is manifestly an ineffectual endeavor to accomplish the same purpose; but the limited capacity for air in the lungs, and the weakened vital force that attends an insufficient supply of this indispensable agent for evoking it, renders the accomplishment of the endeavor incomplete. Tuberculous matter being nitrogenized substance, and therefore least liable to be disturbed by oxygen, is therefore allowed to accumulate.

The preternatural activity of the arterial vessels is the result of the exigency into which the system is thrown, and has evidently for its object the bringing of the blood more rapidly into relation with air, that great principle employed at all times to maintain and to restore the health. It is not oxygen merely that is required, for this alone would produce unwholesome effects, but *air*.

As the congested or diseased aerating membrane, or the accumulation of foreign substance in the lungs, cuts short its efficiency, the urgency of symptoms increase in the same ratio. But this cannot last long. The system languishes, not for the want of arteriality of the blood, but *from the strain imposed upon it in order to attain its first vital necessity, air.* Death in these cases is not the result of the poison of disease, but of the exhaustion from necessarily over-excited organic activity.

The propriety of the position here assumed in regard to the *cause* of pulmonary disease, is corroborated by reference to opposite conditions. Persons engaged in out-door and manly employments, and whose use of muscles habitually induces more profound respiration, are comparatively exempt from the class of affections in question. For those threatened with pulmonic symptoms the physicians suggest almost instinctively such hygienic means as riding on horseback, or a journey to some part whose climate seduces people from their dwellings, and many other different methods of carrying out the same idea. But it transcends my capacity to understand why, in a disease which in the incipient state requires more air should, in a more advanced stage, in which this need is the more pressing, now require drugs instead. The new irritability induced by them can only result in additional exhaustion.

Some of the most popular modes of palliating the symptoms of this form of disease by drugs, require attention. That old deceiver, alcohol, whose conjurations are now so much in vogue, is capable of provoking a new impulsion in the circulation and respiration, which for the instant seems to be auxiliary to the natural effort; but since the complement of air received is still at the expense of inadequate powers, nothing real has been gained, even though the feelings may have been repeatedly gratified by its administration. The supply of an extraordinary amount of hydrocarbon in the shape of oil, even though the irritability of the system be expended on it in order to effect its exclusion as carbonic acid and water, and though saving, as alleged, the vital structures thereby, yet fails to bring what the system most needs, *air*, and so can be of no permanent benefit, as experience abundantly proves. The deep fires may be temporarily smothered by a combustible covering, but are certain to break out with new fury. The reputed cures by either of these profanations of hygiene are cases, I apprehend, either of faulty diagnosis, or such as had also the advantages of other *better* influences, of which these stole the reputes. The treatment by compounds of Iodine and Chlorine has a more philosophical basis,

since these elements have a chemical, though not a physiological, relationship with oxygen.

Numerous items of common experience corroborate the theory here advanced that *air* is the principal reliable resource in every stage of pulmonary disease. Let the hectic patient be carried into the open air, and the conditions rendered favorable for its influence, and the paroxysm passes off in proportion to the supply of air for which he is panting.

All have noticed that this class of invalids are affected by the varying weight of the atmosphere, though it be but a few tenths of the barometric scale. It is said that some have lived in caves (as the mammoth of Kentucky) and in mines for prolonged periods for the advantage derived most probably from this source, notwithstanding the unwholesome concomitants of darkness, cold and dampness. Persons descending in diving bells, or working in the submarine armor, are able to accomplish most surprising feats without excitement or the least difficulty, and without being followed by debility. It was well proved by the firemen of the ill-fated steamer San Francisco, who worked in a room with the air considerably condensed for the supply of the fires, that none but pleasant effects attended the operation.

Very manifestly, then, what the pulmonic sufferer most needs, in whatever stage of his disease, is *not* a new medical specific, or a new vehiculum for old ones, but *more air*. And if this could be supplied without the almost fatal recourse of *stimulants*, and without the exhaustion consequent on physical effort, the most perfect conditions for a cure would be supplied.

M. Fabaric, of Montpelier, France, has contrived an easy and effectual mode of supplying this indication by means of the *Compressed Air-Bath*, and has practised it with great success since 1843. It is also used in England, and would doubtless long ere this have taken an eminent position among the means of relief for this class of patients, were it not that the trouble and expense attending its management would seem to exclude it from ordinary practice, and perhaps there might be added, the fear of the shouts of "irregularity" proceeding from faithless brethren.

The apparatus of the Compressed Air-Bath designed and used by us consists of a small room, made of heavy tinned iron, and strongly bound with iron, with plate-glass windows (B B) and a door (A), the whole being perfectly air-tight. Communicating with the room by means of a strong rubber hose is a double acting force air pump (D) worked by machinery. A valve (c) at the top of the room regulates the pressure at the will of the operator. One, two or more invalids being seated in the bath, and provided with some agreeable means of occupation, the pressure is gradually raised to from three to five pounds per square inch. The air is kept fresh by its constant escape through the valve under pressure, as fast as it is forced in after the desirable point is attained. The patient remains in this situation about two hours, including fifteen or twenty minutes required for raising, and as much more in lowering the pressure, while the organism is being accommodated to its new influence.

Effects of the Bath.—In our experiments upon the healthy, the organs appear to become readily adapted to the change of condition, and beyond the pressure upon the ear drum, relieved by an attempt to swallow, no other effect is noticeable except in some cases a slight elevation of the pulse, due perhaps to the few degrees of heat rendered sensible by the pressure.

Those laboring under pulmonary disease, however, experience a *remarkable fall of the pulse* of from five up to thirty or more beats per minute; a perfect relief from dyspnœa, and in many cases, a complete restoration of the voice when this has been partially or wholly lost. The patient sings and whistles, when he had not been able to do so for months. The bath is followed by no depression or reaction, but the effect seems to be permanent. We have in the last few weeks, subjected all grades of this class of patients to its influence from those just on the borders of the grave, who would otherwise be unable to sit up long enough for the operation, to those of simple congestion of the respiratory membranes, with uniform good effect. The fever and night sweats are prevented, in those who before had these symptoms, and a permanent state of tranquillity is secured.

It is folly to expect *cures* in advanced cases, involving a distinction of too large a portion of the organ, and the reduction of extensive tubercolous masses; but a slight consideration of the *rationale* of this treatment will show that it brings conditions most favorable to recovery. Suppose for illustration that by reason of congestion or deposit, one-third of the efficiency of the lungs is suspended, the quickening of the circulation, and of the respiratory effort to the same extent, is sure to follow as an attempt at compensation. If now the requisite supply is attained by condensation to the extent of one-third, the *effort* and organic strain to secure air

is at once abated, the pulse falls, the strength is husbanded and the system is in the best possible condition to recover. The efforts are most conspicuous in that numerous class of patients with *throat-ail*, or any form of bronchial disease, the arterializing power of the operation being sufficient to empty the engorged capillaries at once.

650 Sixth Avenue, N. Y. City.

(Communicated for the Medical World.)

BITES OF WATER ADDERS.

Messrs. Editors : — You know that New England is supposed to be pretty free from venomous reptiles, but if the following statements are true, we have latent evils of this kind not generally known, and our lads and lasses who venture into muddy water, after lilies, &c., will do well, at least, *while in the mire*, to take good heed to their steps.

Mr. R., a man of truth, recently told me that in the town of Deerfield, N. H., in August, 1831, he, with other young people, went, unknown to their parents, one Sabbath day, after meeting, to a muddy pond in the neighborhood, and waded in after water-lilies. His brother, George W. Ring, stepped on a large water adder, which coiled up and stung or bit the end of one of his great toes. At almost the same instant, Miss B., another member of the party, and now living, felt a similar snake beneath one of her feet. It coiled for a moment about her limb, and then, without inflicting any *obvious* wound, glided away. The party hastened from the water, and homeward, solemnly enjoining it on each other, that, as it was Sunday, to conceal *all* from being known to the "old folds at home."

Before morning the wounded Mr. R. began to feel shooting pains through his foot, but went to work in the hayfield, as usual, the next day with great exertion; and, unwisely concealing the increasing torture, he continued to perform his labors uncomplainingly till the next Thursday morning, when he found himself obliged to yield to most painful circumstances, which he could no longer control. He went to his bed assuring his friends that *his* work was all done. His suffering grew more and more intense till the succeeding Monday morning, when they terminated in death. A large, blister-like protuberance, with the appearance of a splinter in the centre of it, was found on the wounded toe, and also similar ones over the whole body. Pains almost simultaneous with his commenced also in the whole of Miss B.'s limb below the knee. It swelled rapidly and frightfully till the process of decomposition ensued, and was for many months, if not years, discharging pieces of bone and other matter. She thus suffered four long, painful years before she was able to set her foot upon the ground. Mr. R. assured me that the origin of these evils, which so much puzzled the family physician, was kept a profound secret for seventeen years, when one day, hearing his neighbors disputing about the cause of his brother's death, he, reckless of the imputation of being a *Sabbath breaker*, related the facts as above stated.

Yours truly,

E. Sanborn.

Andover, August 11, 1857.

FLOATING FACTS.

Color of the Atmosphere. — The color of the atmosphere is only apparent when we look at the sky, or at any distant mountain or forest; and a very simple experiment will explain the cause. If we take any large glass vessel, which contains a deep-colored liquid, and have several glass tubes of different diameters, from an inch to a tenth or twentieth of an inch, and fill these tubes with liquid out of the large vessel; though we have the same liquid in all, it will be seen that the tint will gradually become more faint in proportion as the diameter of the tube is less, until, in the smallest, the liquid is clear and colorless like water. Hence, it will be observed, the intensity of the color is in proportion to the mass; and that a very small quantity of that which in larger quantities has a strong color does not present any color at all. This is the case with all semi-transparent substances. A small quantity cannot transmit to the eye a sufficient body of their peculiar color to make an impression, and hence appears colorless.

Green Hair. — The *Bulletin Therapeutique* contains the curious case of a worker in metals, who has wrought in copper only five months, and whose hair, which was lately white, has now turned to a decided green. Chemical analysis has proved that his hair contains a considerable quantity of acetate of copper, and it is to this circumstance that it owes its change of color.

Harvey. — After Harvey had made the great discovery of the circulation of the blood, he durst not for many years even drop a hint upon the subject in his comparatively private lectures, and it was not until nearly thirty years had elapsed that he ventured to publish to the world, not in his own country, but at Frankfort, the results of his experiments. And then nothing could exceed the contempt and ridicule with which it was received. Had he lived in a country unblessed with the light of the Reformation, he would probably have shared the fate of Galileo. As it was, he was accused of propagating doctrines tending to subvert the authority of Holy Scripture; the epithet "circulator," in its Latin invidious signification (quack), was applied to him: it was given out that he was turned "crack-brained," and his practice as a physician sensibly declined. In a quarter of a century more his system was received in all the universities of the world, and Harvey lived to enjoy the reputation he so justly merited.

Death from Grief. — An instance of death from sudden grief has just occurred. It is that of a slave woman, named Mary Jane, aged about thirty years. She had been the nurse of an interesting infant of Mr. Paulus Thyson, which died on Sunday morning last. As soon as the spirit of the little sufferer had passed away, the faithful nurse sank into unconsciousness, and thirty hours thereafter expired, without other apparent cause than the grief that had overpowered her. She belonged to Mr. Thyson, and had been the nurse of all his children. This is but an other illustration of the fervor of the affections that so pre-eminently characterize the African race, especially when educated under the influences of kind and gentle associations.

The Great American, the Giant of the World. — Some weeks ago we gave a few facts in regard to the weight and dimensions of Miles Darden, who died at Tennessee, and was said to be the largest man in the world. The Jackson (Tenn.) *Whig* has the following additional particulars of the deceased, furnished by the Rev. John Brooks:

"He was twice married. His children are very large, but probably none of them will ever be more than half the weight of their father. He was quite active and lively, and labored until about four years ago, when he became so fleshy that he was compelled to stay at home, or be hauled about in a two horse wagon.

"In 1819 he made a contract with a tailor to furnish him with a suit of clothes for $50 — the cloth was to cost $5 a yard. Upon measurement it took twelve yards of cloth; so the tailor lost $10 and the making. The tailor states that three men, each weighing over two hundred pounds, put the coat on, buttoned it around them, and walked across the square at Lexington. In 1850 it took 13 1-4 yards of flax cloth, a yard wide, to make him a coat. It took 16 yards of cambric for his shroud; 24 yards of black velvet to cover the sides and lid of his coffin; 125 feet of plank to make his coffin.

"His coffin was eight feet long; across the breast thirty-two inches; across the head eighteen inches; across the foot fourteen inches. He weighed in 1845, 871 pounds. His height was 7 feet 6 inches. His weight when he died, as nearly as could be ascertained, was a fraction over 1000 pounds."

Gorged Leeches. — Leeches having been sold in Paris, containing a considerable quantity of blood, a decree has recently been published on the subject. By this it is admitted that leeches which have never been applied may still contain a certain portion of blood, owing to the practice that now prevails of feeding them with blood in the reservoirs, but it is decreed that all leeches exhibiting more than 15 per cent. of their weight of this are to be seized. The examiners are ordered to take promiscuously a certain number and weigh them, after well drying them. They are then to be placed in a tepid saline solution for two minutes, the blood they contain pressed out, and weighed again. If the difference is more than 15 per cent. they are declared to be sophisticated.

Singular Cause of Death. — A young medical man, Dr. Salle, practising at Chalons, performed lately the operation of tracheotomy — opening the windpipe — on a child that had croup and malignant sore throat. Blood escaped into the windpipe from the wound, and in order to save the child's life, the doctor immediately applied his mouth and sucked the blood out. Next day alarming symptoms declared themselves in the region of the lungs, his respiration became difficult, and in the short space of forty-eight hours from the time of the operation, Dr. Salle breathed his last.

Sudden Death.—A sensible article has appeared in the London *Athenæum*, on the subject of insanity and sudden deaths, which are quite as common in England as the United States—and far more so than ever before known in the history of either nation. The paragraph reads thus—"At no period have insanity and sudden death been so prevalent as now. Not very long since, a coroner is reported to have used a homely phrase, rich in good counsel, attention to which, he said, would save many a man from madness, and as many from sudden death. 'Put your trust in Heaven,' he remarked, 'and watch narrowly your inward man.' Some writers declare there is no help for the insane but in God and physicians. The coroner very properly intimated that with the calm of reliance in His power, and employment of the means for keeping in health the body which he created, there would be fewer cases of insanity and also of sudden death."

Artificial Limbs.—Dr. B. W. Jewett, of Meredith Bridge, N. H., has taken out a patent for an improvement in the mechanism of the joints in wooden legs. He was for some years in the service of Mr. Palmer, of universal celebrity as an artificial limb manufacturer. Of course, we are not competent to sit in judgment on the merits of this patent. The workmanship is beautiful, but those who are obliged to wear wooden legs are best able to determine their relative value.

Spider Bite.—About two weeks ago, Mr. W. R. Silver of this city, while fishing at Centre Harbor, N. H., was bitten on the top of the fore finger of the left hand by a small black spider. The wound immediately began to inflame and swell, and finally burst. The pain extended the whole lenght of the arm to the shoulder and neck, and was for a time very intense, especially in the finger. Plantain leaves were applied, and he is now rapidly recovering.

Death From Old Age.—A very large number of deaths is attributed to age and debility; yet few even of the oldest die purely from exhaustion or gradual decay; some positive disease usually comes on, and overwhelms the small remains of vitality. Yet this event, though rare, is by no means impossible. Such a death is what the poets called a sleep; or, as Dr. Wilson Philip describes it: "In the only death which can strictly be called natural, the state of the sensitive system which immediately precedes death differs from its state in sleep in no respect but in degree." At what age may this be expected? We give as our answer the axiom of the Hebrew poet: "The days of our age are threescore years ten; and though men be so strong that they come to fourscore years, yet is their strenght then but labor and sorrow; so soon passeth it away, and we are gone." (*Psalm* xc.) In this part of the world we may add five or six to the fourscore years, the wear and tear of life being smaller in these temperate climates than under the glowing sun of Palestine; and accordingly we find Blumenbach, in his "Physiology," fixing on eighty-six as the limit of human life. On looking over European bills of mortality, he found, he says, that a considerable number attained this age; but few indeed went beyond it.

Swiss Medical Students. — When hostilities seemed imminent between Switzerland and Prussia, several young Swiss, who were studying medicine at Paris, left the schools to join in the defence of their country, and thus lost the benefit of two inscriptions or registrations. The Faculty of Medicine appreciating their patriotism, and the honorable cause of their absence, has decided that these young men shall be considered as not having been absent, so that the advantage of the inscriptions will not be lost to them.

Literature and Surgery.— The telegraph reports the death of Eugene Sue, the author of "The Mysteries of paris," the "Wandering Jew," and other well knows. The deceased was born in Paris—studied medicine—and was in the service as a naval surgeon. He squanderdd the fortune received from nis father, and under the pressure of want wrote for the press. He was elected a member of the National Assembly in 1850, but gained no laurels in office. He was forty-nine years of age.

Female Dress.—A lady in Maine has made some important improvements in female dress, which at last, meet the approval of physicians. The principle improvement consists in suspending all the drapery from the shoulders, and thus relieves the body from the injurious compression it now receives by tight waists, and making the hips the point of suspension. In short, the figure would be greatly improved, and health, the very first consideration, be secured by the adoption of the new plan.

Average of Human Life.—The average of human life is about 33 years. One quarter die previous to the age of seven years; one-half before reaching seventeen; and those who pass this age enjoy a felicity refused to one half the human species. To every 1,000 persons, only one reaches 100 years of life; to every 100, only six reach the age of 65; and not more than one in 500 lives to 80 years of age. There are on earth 1,000,000,000 inhabitants; and of these 33,333,333 die every year, 91,824 every day, 3,730 every hour, and 60 every minute, or one every second. These losses are about balanced by an equal number of births. The married are longer lived than the single; and, above all, those who observe a sober and industrious conduct. Tall men live longer than short ones. Women have more chances of life in their favor previous to being 50 years of age than men have, but fewer afterward. The number of marriages is in proportion of 75 to every 1,000 individuals. Marriages are more frequently after the equinoxes; that is, during the months of June and December. Those born in the spring are generally more robust than others. Births and deaths are more frequent by night than by day.

Ancient Fossil Remains.—Professor Emmons, in his recent report to the Legislature of North Carolina, mentions the discovery, in the sedimentary rocks of Montgomery county, of that State, of fossils, of an age anterior to any previous discoveries of traces of animal life. Professor Emmons contends, therefore, that so far as investigations have resulted in discoveries, that part of the country was the scene of the first manifestation of that great principle.

Royal Color of the Skin.—So universal is the custom of coloring the skin of women and children yellow, the Royal color in Siam, that it is quite impossible to touch a child without detaching the pigment upon one's clothes. Curcuma, or Indian Saffron, a bulbous, fleshy root, of a deep golden hue, and of an aromatic smell, is reduced to a fine powder, a small quantity of which is mixed with quick lime and water, which assumes the consistence of a paste of a bright pink. In the morning, mothers may be seen yellowing their naked children — which is their toilet for the day. It would be a neglect to be talked about were persons in the lowest conditions of life so lost to a sense of propriety as not to stain their children yellow, from the crown of their shorn heads to the soles of their bare feet. The royal children of the harem, and the multitudinous offspring of the nobles, are dyed with extreme care, immediately after rising at early dawn—and unincumbered by clothing, both girls and boys vie with each other in the thickness and richness of the yellow dressing, before being shown in the society of their friends.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

The Miami Medical College of Cincinnati is said to have been obliterated.

Dr. Blackman of the Ohio Medical College is a good teacher.

Transactions of St. Louis Medical Society bear reading half a dozen times. The members meet for mutual instruction, and not for mutual admiration, or to abuse their neighbors who are more prized by the public than themselves.

Unusual health characterized the last month throughout this country.

Medical specialties are continually multiplying in all the cities. That is the true method for being both eminent and successful in business. Never mind the objections of envious professional brethren against them.

Smallpox has been unusually prevalent the present season in the upper Missouri country, within the range of Hudson Bay fur hunters.

A schism is developing in the medical ranks of Vienna. A *new school* is coming up, which is beginning to battle the old, which is regarded as an old fogy. Progress! There is no hedging in ideas.

A pleasant, third quarterly meeting of the members of the Medical Society of South Western New York, was recently held at Jamestown, Dr. G. W. Hazeltine, president, in the chair. Some of the speeches were terse and brilliant, and all of them distinguished for good sense. This social festivity does far more for the character of the brotherhood of physic in the estimation of outside spectators, than resolutions denouncing some school of practitioners imagined to be in better favor with the people than their own.

We always take up the *American Journal of Insanity* with an expectation of being instructed. The July number is excellent. A memoir of Dr. Brigham,—who died before his merits were understood, is worth a year's subscription. Why don't the whole profession patronize it?

Dr. Hitchcock was elected an honorary member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society at the late Commencement at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire.

An exchange suggests the propriety of appending to the names of persons whose deaths are announced in the papers, the name of the physician also under whose care they expired, on the same principle that clergymen are mentioned who solemnize marriages.

The Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Journal says that the fighting propensities of the editor of the Buffalo Journal will bring him and the Journal into trouble.

Studious habits have been found, by some recent statistical researches, to be conducive to longevity. The mind must be exercised as well as the body.

How few surgical operations of a striking character have been performed this season.—They are ordinarily centralized about the time when medical lectures commence—by which immense advantages accrue to the students.

A prospectus of the seventh course of lectures at the Metropolitan Medical College, in in the city of New-York, is circulating, and the prospects are represented to be quite flattering. There are seven professors.

The *Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Journal* has not breathed its last. It was never more vigorous, racy and prosperous.

Dr. Crawford, of Ayr, performed the extraordinary surgical operation of removing the whole of the shoulder blade from a young man afflicted with a malignant tumor on it. The operation was perfectly successful; the patient was kept under chloroform the whole time, and he is now doing well.

At Vera Cruz the vomito is unusually fatal. Physicians have been unable to control the disease, and, consequently, the fatality has probably been augmented by a sense of fear,—all confidence in medicine having failed.

All the valuable Geological Drawings belonging to the late Dr. Mantell, the distinguished English Geologist, have been presented to Yale College by his son. Dr. Mantell died in 1852, at the age of 62 years. He was the author of several geological works, well known in this country.

Dr. William Garwood, of St. Louis, has a second article in the Medical and Surgical Journal of that city, on *Instinct and Mind*, which abounds with startling propositions. He writes without fear, and gives his opinions like a man who is under no necessity for being a hypocrite.

No yellow fever panic has been lasting this season, although several efforts were spasmodically commenced for the purpose. If quarantine were abandoned, several dreadful foreign diseases would no longer be imported. The merchants have too long been imposed upon in this country by boards of health — the members of which are never all Solomons.

The matter of medical education and the duration of the term for medical lectures, continues to be a favorite topic for discussion with those most interested in taking pupils for tuition, which is a remunerative business provided there are enough of them.

Quite a batch of physicians were apprehended, not long ago, at Chicago, on a charge of having something to do with money, illegally.

Physicians generally, throughout the United States, have had but little professional business the present season. A remarkable degree of national good health, for which we ought to be grateful, has characterized eight months of the year 1857.

Part thirty-fifth, of the New York edition of Braithwait's Retrospect of Practical Medicine and Surgery, is well filled with well written papers. The reprints of this, the Lancet and some others, explain the reasons why the native medical Journals are so poorly sustained. A taste for foreign literature and foreign science stands in the way of many enterprises which are both injurious to home publishers and American serial literary effort.

Dr. Swansey, an English physician residing in Illinois, accused of having produced a criminal abortion on a young Swedish woman, has been arrested.

Messrs. Fowler & Wells, 308 Broadway, New York, have published a curious work, which abounds with curious illustrations, called *The Illustrated Gymnasium.* It shows how the system may be developed, and the feeble made strong by simply educating the muscles in a variety of pleasant and agreeable exercises.

Dr. Howe, of Boston, has written a scorching letter to the governor of Massachusetts, upon his veto of a bill providing for the increase of the State beneficiaries at the School for Idiot Children.

From abroad we learn that ten per cent. of salt mixed with cod-liver oil, takes away its extremely offensive character, and actually improves its medicinal effects.

Benjamin Pickard recently died in Canada at the great age of one hundred and one years.

Last year ninety-one persons committed suicide in Massachusetts.

The British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review, republished in this country, is eminently worthy of patronage, if one prefers transatlantic medical matter to that at home.

Lectures have already been commenced some two weeks at the Berkshire Medical College. Classes will not be large at any of the institutions the present season, as in former times. An over production of physicians and surgeons has discouraged the multitude from embarking in the enterprise.

Messrs. Lindsay & Blakiston's catalogue of medical works is a curiosity. It makes one ambitious to have a library.

A monument to the memory of Dr. Jenner is preparing in Paris, and a subscription opened to defray the expense. A colossal statue for the same purpose was inaugurated in London last season—for which subscriptions were taken in this country.

A bronze statue of Bichat, the great French physiologist and anatomist, is being executed in Paris.

The are 60,000 more widows than widowers in the State of New York. Beware of *vidders*, was the advice of Mr. Weller.

A pamphlet has appeared at Chicago in relation to the mixing and mingling of the homœopathists and allopathists in the hospital: they don't like each other. There is neither charity, mercy, kindness, brotherly love, nor forgiveness among physicians, where their interests are concerned. The people laugh at them.

An eminent surgeon of Boston, now in Europe, is menaced with a suit for damages in consequence of having married a charming and wealthy widow, whose hand was solicited by an unsuccessful candidate for the bonds of matrimony.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.

Surgical Anatomy. — Dr. Piper, a medical gentleman residing in the neighborhood of Boston, distinguished alike for artistic skill with the pencil and in his profession, has brought out, through the press of Messrs. John P. Jewett & Co., a highly finished edition of Maclise's plates of Surgical Anatomy. Each plate is beautifully executed in oil colors, accompanied by descriptions from the English edition.

A copy came to hand just as these pages were going to press, which precludes the opportunity of saying what would have been gratifying in relation to this useful work. We shall resume the subject in the next number.

Books, pamphlets, and favors of various descriptions have accumulated exceedingly, and, as fast as possible, will have the attention they merit.

Professional Pleasantries.

Oil of Dogs.—A German who resides in Mill Creek township, while recently suffering from a pulmonary attack, sent for a physician, who resides on College Hill, Cincinnati. In a short time the doctor called on him, prescribed two bottles of cod liver oil, and receiving his fee of eight dollars, was told by the German, who disliked the size of the bill, that he need not come again.

The doctor saw no more of his patient for some time; but oneday, riding past, he was pleased to see him in the garden digging lustily The case seemed such a proof of the virtues of cod liver oil that he stopped to make more particular inquiries about it.

"You seem to be getting very well," said he addressing the German.

"Yaw, I ish well," responded the former sick man.

"You took as much oil as I told you?" inquired the doctor.

"Oh, yaw, I have used more as four gallons of de dog liver oil."

"The what?" said the astonished doctor.

"De dog liver oil dat you say I shall take. I have killed most every little fat dog I could catch, and de dog liver oil have cure. It is great medicine, dat dog liver oil."

Tit for Tat. — A few years before Dr. Baillie's death, during a visit which the late Prof. Gregory, of Edinburgh, made to London, these eminent physicians, each distinguished in their several departments, conversed together on several occasions, and the judgment they jocosely passed upon each other was expressed in the following manner:

"Baillie," said the accomplished and classical professor, "knows nothing but physic." "Gregory," exclaimed the experienced and skilful London practitioner, "seems to me to know everything but physic."

What is the difference between Dr. Brandreth and a bill sticker? One is a pill boaster while the other is a bill poster.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, SEPTEMBER, 1857.

HYDRIATIC TREATMENT OF SCARLET FEVER.—When Dr. Munde's treatise appeared in June last, we were from home, and consequently a notice of the publication has been delayed, like many other literary attentions, to a convenient opportunity.

The readers of this Journal will find an extract from the volume even before it was published, which the author gave to the medical public several months ago. He there explained the philosophy of the treatment of scarlet fever by water, and exhibited the advantages to be derived from that simple course. In the treatise which has emanated from the press of Mr. Radd, 300 Broadway, New York, a very complete, and perhaps it is warrantable say, perfect guide to a successful management of a formidable disease, is clearly defined.

Nothing is more difficult than to liberalize the opinions or simplify a system of practice to which we have been educated. It is far easier to denounce every attempt at a modification of our modes of doing or thinking, than to deviate from a stereotyped course which we have been accustomed to believe answered all the purposes of a learned profession. Hence progress, particularly in the practice of physic, is the most difficult of all enterprises, and subjects those who admit the possibility of a better way of accomplishing the object, that is, the restoration of a patient, than our ancestors adopted, to ridicule, contempt, and, often as otherwise, persecution.

No one who stands in fear of the obloquy that would follow from allowing himself to introduce a new remedy or embrace a new element in therapeutics, will accept Dr. Munde's instruction: it would be undignified. That is not all; it would bring down the maledictions of an offended brotherhood, who are represented, from some sources, to prefer the death of their patrons, rather than abandon their uncompromising medical dogmas. Here is a work by a highly educated German whose position in his native country was very commanding. He would be nobody, if it were within the compass of envious practitioners, who have not a tithe of his learning nor a ray of his genius, to make him so, because he has the presumption to propose something they may not like. Were it a personal injury against themselves, no vindictive demonstrations would be more promptly resented than a deviation from a strict adherence to legitimate theories and antiquated presumptions. Intolerance in medicine is quite as marked in this age, as intolerance of some sects in religion. It is light enough. No more is required. That is the doctrine.

If any one not under the leaden influence of medical prejudice could take pleasure in relieving a suffering child under the threatening grasp of Scarlatina, when all the ordinary medications usually resorted to have been inoperative and useless, let him consult Dr. Munde's directions for saving life. For ourselves we are no stickers for forms, nor so wedded to the particular methods the schools teach, as not to try any and every means within our reach to counteract the fatal tendency of a malady. To condemn a man without apology, who pursues a plan different from our own, who has precisely the same object in view, and who may be quite as honest, philanthropic and honorable too, is not only ungenerous, but vastly reprehensible in the estimation of moralists.

Read Dr. Munde's book, and then practise to suit yourself. If his reasonings fail to carry conviction respecting the efficacy of the curative agencies he employs, then adhere to one which inspires confidence, although your patients may expire in an atmosphere of pure medical science.

MEDICAL CHARGES.—It appears by a decision of the Court in Western New-York, that physicians have no right to combine together in making a tariff of charges. It is illegal, and in the instance referred to, the expulsion of a member of a medical society for daring to take less, as compensation for his services, than has been fixed upon by the society, is likely to put the fraternity into singular embarrassment. Whether the disgraced gentleman will make his late associates pay smart money, remains to be ascertained. That he could involve the society in a singular amount of pecuniary trouble, is predicated on the decision of a sovereign tribunal, whose action is supposed to be final.

The whole gist of the matter is confined to a nutshell, and is substantially as follows, viz.: Physicians are recognized as men prepared to relieve the sick, to the extent of their knowledge and skill. In fact, they are obliged to do so when called upon. So long as they allow themselves to be practitioners of medicine or surgery, they cannot refuse to render professional relief, even when there is no prospect of obtaining a large fee. The laborer is worthy of his hire, but he cannot be permitted in a Christian community to extort from his customers beyond a fair compensation for services rendered; nor under any circumstances be sustained in an attempt to prevent another from taking whatever price he chooses to receive of patients or from institutions.

What may grow out of this new doctrine, beyond indignation meetings and terrible resolutions remains to be seen. In the meanwhile, the people appear to be delighted at a prospect of a death-blow to what editors are pleased to call an unrighteous combination.

Cancer-Curing in London.—Such has been the intense interest felt in the case of Mr. Crawford, the American Sculptor, who is represented to have a cancerous condition of one eye, its tissues or orbit, that the character of his professional advisers has been somewhat overlooked. He had the assistance of the first surgeons of Europe, but they did not succeed in bettering his condition. The disease progressed to an alarming extent while under their treatment. This was precisely what might have been expected. The malady is one that has defied the best efforts of the faculty in all ages. There may have been temporary ameliorations, but a radical cure of malignant cancer has not been effected within the limits of our experience. We read of what an adventurer has achieved in that direction, in his own newspaper advertisements; and we are also familiar with the melancholy fact, that hundreds have suffered tortures under the imaginary specifics of a cancer doctor, who at last died, the unfortunate victims of an obstinate, painful, incurable disease,—which the wisest and most learned physicians and surgeons have had the honesty to confess they could not arrest. But with these memorable recollections of the past, and a perfect knowledge of the inadequacy of science to grapple successfully with the insidious destroyer, the friends of Mr. Crawford have placed him under the care of a London somebody, who is spoken of, without apology, as an American quack who has a rising reputation in high circles.

When a man's name is up he may keep his bed till noon. The court intelligence says that Dr. Fell, Mr. Crawford's medical attendant, has been called to Berlin to see the wife of a distinguished diplomatist, and leaves Mr. Crawford in the meanwhile under the care of a surgeon of the Middlesex Hospital.

This is a remarkable state of things in several respects. All reliable surgeons in France and England, whose opinions are worth having, are avoided. A man who is styled a quack, has quiet possession of one of the great artists of modern times, for whom the civilized world sympathize, without raising a voice against a cancer-doctor who is stigmatized on two continents as a regular irregular. And lastly, a surgeon in good repute, the surgeon of a celebrated Metropolital Hospital, aids and abets him! Not a word of objection is made to these proceedings at home or abroad. And what is the reason some great explosion has not taken place in view of this gross insult to the dignity of an honored profession?

Physicians' Visiting List.—One utilitarian idea, well presented to the public, may lead to fortune, and sometimes distinction. The author of this little pocket blank book, with just printing enough at the top of each leaf to show where the owner is to make marks in the way of his daily professional business, will no doubt reap more income from his ingenuity than some gaeat and learned writers receive from the sale of works of a high character. Every practising physician needs a copy, and most of them have it.—Those who have not are deprived of a convenience which no one is willing to disperse with who has tried its value. It is in better taste for 1857, to our apprehension, than the last, which was too thick for ordinary pockets. No person this way is able to give the author's name, but that is by no means essential, although it would be gratifying to know the fortunate recipient of a tangible income on the sales.—Messrs. Lindsay and Blakiston, Philadelphia, are the publishers—whose books are invariably neatly printed and securely bound.

Progress of Dentistry.—Like other modern institutions which contemplate the best interests of society by diffusing knowledge in connection with social progress, the American Dentists held their last annual congress in Boston. Perhaps two-thirds of the members were educated for the profession of medicine and surgery; but they had the wisdom to discover that their only chance for bread, position, and independence, was to embrace a remunerative vocation, in which their science would be the foundation for success.

On the 7th of August the Association adjourned, to meet in 1858 in Cincinnati. They are men of energy, tact, and talent. They have few misunderstandings amongst themselves; no quarrels, like medical feuds, and quacks are quite unknown in their ranks. If they had as much law to keep them in order as the purely medical men, perhaps there would be the same amount of insincerity, hypocrisy, and bitterness, that distinguishes the different orders of practitioners.

MARRIAGES.

Dr. Frederick Winsor, of Salem, Mass., to Miss A. B. Ware.

DEATHS.

In Philadelphia, Dr. Caspar Schaeffer, 74.

At Upton, Mass., Dr. Starkweather, about 80. He practised medicine fifty years, and died of dropsy.

At Fryeburg, Me., Ruel Barrows, M. D., 66.

At Washington, D. C., Dr. Robert T. Barry, a surgeon of the U. S. Navy, a native of Pennsylvania.

At Cambridgeport, Mass., Charles F. Chaplin, M. D., 37.

In Boston, of Pneumonia, John Randolph, Lincoln, M. D., 29.

Dr. Bernard Shultze, a German. He accidentally fell from his chair, it is supposed, and fractured his skull on an iron rod of a chemical lamp.

In Hanover, Mass., Dr. B. Whitwell, 40.

At Rathmines, Ireland, Dr. G. T. Hayden.

THE

MEDICAL WORLD.

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MEDICAL MEN OF NEW YORK.

From the *Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Journal*, the accompanying communication from New York was taken. Were other cities microscopically examined, a very similar fraternal condition would be discovered. The hypocritical intrigues of those who are generally supposed by the outside world, to be above trickery, and certainly a dishonest act, in their professional character, according to the author of this letter, would not bear close inspection under the eye of a forbearing moralist. It is the perpetual hatred which the strife for position engenders, where medical competition is active, that brings into being innumerable schemes of bold, enterprising men, who find it almost impossible to live by an honest practice of their profession, and hence are driven into all forms of quackery, through the bitter, persecuting spirit of those pursuing the same calling under happier auspices.

How much it is to be deplored that no code of ethics has been successful in making or persuading physicians to love their medical neighbor as themselves. Christianity may yet triumph in hearts which have no fellow feeling in them at present, and plant an olive branch where there is nothing but thorns.

Should any one question the writer's statements, let him inspect the ground for himself.

It is one of the anomalies of human nature, the truth of which is familiar to the people, that medical practitioners, bland as the moon beams to their patrons, are perfect sour-krouts towards each other, unless in those combinations where five, six or a dozen unite, to crush all the rest. And even in those admiration societies, there are the slumbering elements of a volcano in each member's breast, showing its pent-up energy when individual ambition is too much curbed by the growing popularity of another.

The only way yet discovered for elevating the profession, and circumscribing the mortifying extension of quackery, is to act up to the full measure of kindness and courtesy which constitutions and by-laws enjoin, but which are violated in spirit, without remorse or apology, year in and year out, through every phase of professional existence.

"The medical men of this city, as it strikes a stranger, are less disposed to union as a body, and less clannish than with you. They seem to cultivate with each other only a passing acquaintance, and avoid closer intimacy, except it be with what they call *cliques*, which appear to be made up of the partisans who adhere to the interests of certain colleges, or professors, or hospitals, in antagonism to all others; for all these are not only rivals, but seemingly hostile and antipodal to each other.

"In conversing with a number of either of these factions, a stranger would infer that the rest have neither rank or merit, but that all of reputation or position is monopolized by his own clique. Each of these 'sets' ismade up of the sycophants, toadies, or tools, of some individual professor or surgeon, whom they are ever lauding as having the highest reputation, the largest practice, the most consultations, and the heaviest income, which last they magnify to a fabulous amount; while disparaging and depreciating by comparison, men who are vastly their superiors in public estimation, but who have no need to keep an army of claquers to blow their trumpet.

"The leaders in these cliques attain this position and influence over their troop of blowers, it is said, partly by inviting them to entertainments at their houses, but chiefly by sustaining them at all times in consultations, as a recompense for being thus called, and graciously endorsing them to their patients as 'promising young surgeons' or doctors, as the case may be, with which cheap compliment these juniors are enlisted for life.

"One of these so-called 'heads of the profession' even boasted in our hearing that he had a hundred young doctors in town, who were ever hunting up consultations for him, not only in their own practice, but whenever and wherever they could manage it; so that half of his income, he confessed, was derived from this source. The hundred juniors meanwhile, thus playing into his hands, must be oblivious to their own interests, while acting as his lackeys, exalting him at their own expense.

"There are three colleges here, but their mutual relations are less amicable than they are in your city, where there are four. This opinion is formed after intercourse with the faculties and partisans of each, and hearing their estimate of each other. The old college claims to be par excellence, the crack school of the city, and its representatives of course detract from the merits of the only rival they own to be such, viz: the University School; while the latter sneers at the pretensions of the former as a stale joke. Both of these parties unite in despising Horace Green's school as they call the third college here, and scarcely tolerate an allusion to it. Hence I have heard from the several parties some strange revelations of the ownership and vast indebtedness, meagre receipts, onerous mortgages, and lean pickings of the other faculties, which if not too highly colored, make teaching in New York a costly tax, instead of a fat income, as in some of your colleges. Nor is the lucrative practice here at all engrossed by professors, very many of the most popular and extensive practioners having no connection with schools or hospitals, being otherwise and more profitably employed.

"This leads me to say that the principal hospitals of the city are the old one in Broadway and that at the Almshouse, most strangely called Bellevue. The physicians and surgeons of the former are selected by the lay governors, and those of the latter by a political body; all of the medical officers serve gratuitously, except the internes, who get their board, lodging and washing. As of the college professors, so of the hospital physicians and surgeons, their positions are not found available in giving them practice, but as would seem, the contrary, for many of both have never been able to get practice, but are superseded in this respect by scores of private practitioners, who would refuse any appointment in schools or hospitals. The system of favoritism and intrigue, by which medical appointments are too often made here, as elsewhere, may account for this, inferior men being thus made prominent, who nevertheless soon find their level, whether misplaced in the schools or hospitals.

"There are three journals here, viz: the old *Journal of Medicine*, said to be in the interest of the old school—the *Gazette*, which is independent of any school — and the *Monthly*, which is identified with the new College. The first has had many ups and downs, and changes of editors, though said to be supported by subscription among its writers or those who furnish papers; the second supports itself by its fearless criticism of all parties, and its racy and spicy attacks upon quacks of all sorts, to whom it gives no quarter. Its advertising patronage, moreover, is large, because of its wide circulation. The third journal, the *Monthly*, is well conducted, and well supported, both by contributors and circulation, though it is too much the organ of a certain clique in the new college, as is generally thought. There seems to be no strife among the editors, for each is laboring in his particular sphere, without any reference to the other, except a casual one, and that but seldom. Smith publishes heavy papers and reports of societies chiefly — Reese makes the most of few contributors and a wide eclecticism, while his editorials cut right and left by their satire and fun—while Parker and Douglas are dignified and grave in their critical and didactic articles, never forgetting Dr. Green and his throat medication, of which they are the staunch defenders.

"The chief topics of medical gossip here are the success of Dr. Wood in his clinical school at the almshouse hospital, the resignation of Dr. Isaacs from the University School, where he has been the popular demonstrator, or rather fugelman, for the teacher of anatomy, in which department he excels, and the controversy between Dr. Green and the savans at home and abroad, in relation to the throat probang and its passage through the larynx.

"The Academy of Medicine here is the chief centre of gravity for the regular physicians of the city, and is designed to embrace them all, though in this it has failed; and yet it seems to have included Drs. Catlin and Uhl, who have figured so unenviably in the Burdell and Cunningham case. There is also a County Medical Society here, which only meets annually, a Pathological Society, and various other medical associations, which hold frequent and instructive meetings. Dr. Valentine Mott is at present the presiding officer of the Academy, and is always at his post and efficiently

filling it. His eye has not grown dim, nor has his natural strength abated; indeed, his health seems rejuvenated, and he is still as industrious as ever in the practice of his favorite art, in which he is still without a superior in skill or experience in the country."

ANCIENT MEDICAL QUESTIONS.

It seems almost incredible in this vaunted age of medical intelligence, that such extraordinary queries could have occupied the minds of men who were distinguished in their day for great attainments in medical science. Here follow a few specimens of their grave inquiries: —

Had Adam and Eve navels?

Is it true that men have more ribs on one side than the other?

Out of which side was the bone taken for making Eve?

How are six toes or an extra finger to be accounted for upon any known physiological principles?

Whether till after forty days, children weep not to shedding tears, although they do cry lustily?

Whether any infant can be tickled, and laugh not?

Whether the fœtus actually cries in utero, and if so, the cause of it?

Why some mothers secrete nourishment for their offspring while others have none?

How many, of a thousand, have double teeth all round in both jaws?

Is there any method of discovering whether a woman will bear twins?

Certain it is that four boys, kneeling on one knee, holding their breath with inflated lungs, with the tip of one fore-finger each, may lift a fifth, who is lying flat upon his back, holding his breath also, high as their middle. Explain the phenomenon.

Skulls of those who have been hung, such as murderers and banditti, being particularly efficacious for medicine, from what source do they derive their medicinal qualities?

Singular it is that soldiers who drink out of a human skull are invulnerable in battle. Doth *physiology specify* the reason?

Corpulence was regarded as a crime by the Spartans. Nauclis, the son of Polytus was brought before the Euphori and threatened with punishment if he did not reduce himself to the legal Spartan dimensions. Of course he complied, — and pray "*what medicaments doth most quickly purge away too much obesity?*"

Why doth the shining sun set some folk a sneezing, while divers people can only sneeze by the help a feather?

These trivial interrogatories, emanating from distinguished men, whose status of intelligence, and especially their science, richly deserved ridicule, was thus treated by a wag, who had more wit than respect for blockheads in big wigs.

One Dr. Dobbs had a horse he called Nobbs,
With a tail as long as his neck: —
And when Dr. Dobbs fed him on cobs,
He often would eat a whole peck.

Then Dr. Dobbs mounted old Nobbs,
Whose body was filled with cobs.
But here is a point that puzzled the snobs,
Why did Dr. Dobbs feed Nobbs upon cobs?

Inquiries not a whit more important, and quite as absurd as any of the foregoing specimens of the past, are occasionally met in very good society in modern times. Humanity, both ignorant and cultivated, are very nearly the same in all countries and all ages.

Professional Pleasantries.

Jenner's Epitaph. — The following appropriate lines are engraved on Jenner's monument:

"Within this tomb hath found a resting-place,
The great physician of the human race, —
Immortal Jenner, whose gigantic mind
Brought life and health to more than half mankind.
Let rescued infancy his worth proclaim,
And lisp out blessings on his honored name;
And radiant beauty drop her saddest tear,
For beauty's truest, trustiest friend lies here."

A good Collector. — The celebrated Dupuytren had a faithful servant, who was always stationed at the door of his hall. There were two bells fixed over the porter's head, communicating with the consulting room. On bowing the patient out, Dupuytren rang one of the bells. If the fee had been paid, one particular bell was rung, and the servant understood that all was right; and the patient was allowed to depart without any interruption. If the patient forgot the baron's fee, the "no-pay" bell was tingled, and the servant addressed the patient very politely in the following manner: "Mille pardon, Monsieur, I think you have forgotten to give the baron his fee." "*Ciel,*" exclaims the patient, "*quelle négligence, le voici, avec mille apologies au baron.*"

COMMUNICATIONS.

REFORM MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA.

By J. Simpson, M. D., Knoxville, Ga.

The following communication exhibits an unnecessary amount of sensibility, in commenting upon an article which sometime since appeared in this journal, in regard to the legislative liberality of Georgia. The object was intended to express the impartiality of the legislature, without the least exhibition of personal sentiment of our own beyond that idea. Because there are gentlemen who contemplate this or that institution in a different light from its immediate friends, does that prove the existence of particular malice? The leading thought in the obnoxious paper was simply this—viz., that although there are medical gentlemen who look upon all departures from their particular system of medical philosophy, and even perhaps stigmatize very worthy people as mere pretenders, or unvarnished quacks, the representatives of Georgia do not, and their patronage of the Reformed College is an evidence of their generosity and freedom from prejudice. There were two or three paragraphs of an introductory character, principally of a personal nature, concerning ourselves, which were rather extraneous, and therefore omitted, because they concerned the Journal and no one else.

To demonstrate, unmistakably, our good intentions and willingness for even-handed justice —having neither ill-will nor malice to gratify,— believing the world is large enough for all to exercise themselves advantageously for the advancement of humanity without friction or collision, the accompanying paper is given in full.

Is he an "irregular" physician, though he is well educated, both in a Literary and Scientific College,—educated according to the best lights of Medical Science for a physician, merely because he does not subscribe to the doctrines of "*Allos Pothos*;" who does not believe disease is ever *exalted* vitality, or vital action, and therefore he cannot deplete in disease; who believes that fever and inflammation *per se*, ARE NOT disease; who believes that the physician should assist nature to overcome disease; who believes that remedies should act physiologically and not pathologically; that they should be sanative in their effects, consequently he cannot use as remedial agents, quicksilver, digitalis, tartar emetic, hyoscyamurs, strychnine, belladonna, viratrum *viride*, arsenic, corrosive sublimate, hydrocyanic acid, or any other virulent *entrinsic* poison? for he does not believe they can act in a physiological manner in the animal organism. Because of these *principles* is he *necessarily* an "*irregular*" physician? principles, the *truth* of which has been verified at the bedside of the sick ten thousand times. Nay, verily, he is *most regular* in curing the sick."

Now let us inquire what constitutes a *regular* Medical College,—one that is worthy of the name. I shall do this with all deference to other institutions, of whatever school.

Then we shall see if the Reform Medical College of Georgia is not a Regular College, and if her students are not *regular physicians*.

First in order, then, a Medical College, to be regular, should be legally authorized to confer diplomas; it should be able to give to each student worthy of it a diploma, as being "justly entitled to the full confidence, faith and fellowship of the degree of doctor in medicine." It should have an able and competent faculty, and should set a high standard of medical education; should cause each student, before graduating, to attend two full courses of lectures, to read and defend a thesis of his own hand writing and of his own composition.

Each course of lectures should continue from three to four months.

The Faculty should have a reasonable compensation for their services.

This much, then, all will admit, a college must have to be a *regular* college, and of course all reform colleges have in an eminent degree the above requisites.

In the next place, then, will a difference in *theory* or *principles make a difference in the regularity of the system of medicine*? and, if so, is it not in favor of that *theory or that set of principles* most in accordance with reason and common sense?—principles that will stand the test in a practical point; principles that will not fail at the bed side of the sick; principles founded on the immutable loans of Nature that are as unchangeable as the laws of the Medes and Persians.

Now let us see if medical reform has not the only correct set of principles for the cure of disease, and if so, is it not the only true, genuine, scientific *regular* system of medicine extant. What then is claimed by this *reform* system of Medicine?

We claim precisely what its name imports, a thorough, complete, fundamental *reform* in

the present old school system of medicine. Not a reform merely in the agents given, or the manner of giving them; not only a reform in bringing new remedies into the profession, but a *reform* upon the *principles of giving them*. Next, allow me to introduce our platform of principles, and then let the conscientious practitioner judge for himself.

PLATFORM OF PRINCPLES.

"*Resolved*, By the Reformed Medical Association of the United States, that medical science, pertaining altogether to natural subjects, must be in itself as fixed and definite as any other natural science.

"*Resolved*, That the reason why medical men have not learned it, is they have attempted to base it upon the *violation* of physical laws, which are ever variable, instead of *those laws themselves*, which are immutable: they have built their systems on what they call pathology—or rather they have pronounced that pathology which is only deranged physiology, and built upon this error.

"*Resolved*, That the Reformers of past times have failed to perfect their practice, because of the impossibility of doing it while they retain the false notion that the science is based on pathology, or the doctrine that physiological derangements are disease.

"*Resolved*, That the fundamental principles of true medical science are not pathological, but physiological.

"*Resolved*, That disease is not vital action deranged or obstructed, increased or diminished, but any *condition* of the organ in which they are unable to perform their natural functions: a condition that permanently deranges, obstructs, or diminishes vital action, and in this sense is a unit.

"*Resolved*, That irritation, fever, inflammation—terms used to signify increased, deranged, obstructed, or accumulated vital action in the nervous or vascular systems—are not disease, but physiological symptoms of disease; and are not to be directly subdued, but always to be aided in their ultimate design and intention in removing obstructions and restoring the nervous and circulatory equilibrium.

"*Resolved*, That suppuration is to be encouraged and promoted whenever there is accumulated morbific matter to be removed; that gangrene, being no part of inflammation, but a purely chemical process in opposition to all vital action, and occurring only when vital action has wholly ceased, the associating of it with inflammation, and treating the latter as tending to terminate in the former, has been a source of immense mischief in medication.

"*Resolved*, That it is the duty of the practitioners to reject in toto every means and process, which, in its nature and tendency, in authorized medicinal quantities, degrees, or modes of application, has been known to have directly destroyed human life, or permanently injured the tissue, or deranged the physiological action, and to use those, and those only, which have a direct tendency to aid the vital organs in the removal of causes of disease and the restoration of health and vigor.

"*Resolved*, That the agents of this character are not confined to the vegetable kingdom, but are found in every department of nature, and to be 'seized upon wherever found.'

"*Resolved*, That though we shall exercise charity towards the ignorance and prejudices of all men, we can count no one a true medical reformer who rejects the doctrines of the foregoing resolutions."

In a word, we believe,

1st. Heat is the principal supporter of animal life, and is generated by a combination of the food with the atmosphere.

2d. The maintenance of a normal and equable animal temperature is essential to health.

3d. Whatever produces *obstruction* or a *depression of heat*, or interrupts its normal elimination, may be a cause of disease.

4th. Depression may precede and cause, or it may follow and be caused by such obstruction.

5th. A depression of vitality is never indicated in the treatment of disease; therefore, Narcotics, Poisons, Depletion, by bleeding, cupping or leeching, and Counter-irritation, by blisters, setons, actual cautery, or burning moxas should be blotted forever from the catalogue of medical means.

6th. Fever, inflammation, &c., are not disease, but physiological indications of disease; they are not the enemy, but Nature's monitors only, to inform us that the enemy lurks within; they show us the effort Nature herself is making to expel or overcome the disease, and should never be counteracted, but always promoted.

7th. No agent, the direct tendency of which is to destroy life, or to injure permanently any tissue or structure of the system, or derange or impair any of its functions, should be employed in an attempt to cure or prevent disease. Such only should be used, as operate in harmony with the physiological forces of the

system, and tend directly to aid the vital organs in removing disease and restoring health and vigor.

Thus we see the principles of Medical Reform are as far from Allopathy as the "east is from the west."

Now a word in regard to the *endowment* of the Reform Medical College. In the course of your editorial you say—

"But, in that same pleasant State of Georgia, in which, according to the paragraphs that have been floating through the journals, the legislature has acted singularly, and, in defiance of the highest conservative medical sentiment, in 1842, granted $5000 to the Southern Botanic Medical College; and when the edifice was destroyed by fire, so lately as 1854, it was rebuilt, in part, by liberal subscriptions; and in 1856, the legislature appropriated another sum of $5000. This, therefore, in the estimation of a genuinely educated medical gentleman, is an unblushing recognition of downright quackery, since Thomsonism is positively regarded as nothing more nor less than irregular practice at several points of compass."

Allow me to say that that "genuinely educated medical gentleman" is either *ignorant* or *malicious* (*?*) for he has positively stated an untruth. The combined wisdom of the State of Georgia has stamped it *false*.

(It was in 1852, not '42, that the college received its first endowment.)

In proof of the falsity of his assertion let us see the report of the committee to whom was referred the bill to endow the Reform Medical College in the session of 1855 and 1856. They say—

"They have investigated the position and standing of said College, and find it advancing, by the cultivation of the varied departments of medical science, the intelligence and intellectual acquirements of its graduates. As the State has made it the duty of the College to educate, free of charge, one young man from each congressional district, your committee deemed it proper to make inquiry in regard to its capability of instruction, and find the different chairs of Physiology, Pathology, Materia Medica, Obstetrics, Theory and Practice of Medicine, Chemistry, Botany, Anatomy and Surgery, Medical Jurisprudence, Comparative Anatomy, and Comparative Physiology are filled by gentlemen amply able to teach those subjects, as is evident by the fact of students now attending lectures in said college from South Carolina, Alabama, Virginia, Ohio and Illinois, seeking its instruction, as well as a large number from our own State. They also learn that the endowment given by a former Legislature was laid out in the purchase of a building which was destroyed by fire, and that a large portion of fixtures and apparatus of said college were destroyed. From this, as well as the additional facts, that the number of students is *rapidly increasing*, and that the system of medical practice taught in this institution is patronized by a large and respectable portion of our citizens, and also that the endowment now asked will be expended in the enlargement of said college, to accommodate the increasing number of its patrons, and in the purchase of an apparatus, &c. necessary to instruct the students in the different branches of science taught in said college, this Committee recommend the passage of this bill."

Thus we see that an intelligent committee of the Legislature of the "Empire State of the South," after a thorough investigation, did not, by a "considerable part of a good deal," believe the statement made by a "*medical gentleman* (*!*) that it "is an unblushing recognition of downright quackery." Next, "Is Thomsonism positively regarded as nothing more nor less than irregular practice at several points of the compass?" If you mean the reform medical profession by the term "*Thomsonism*," I emphatically deny that it is so regarded anywhere outside of allopathic prejudice.

Let us take the Reform Medical College of Georgia as *one point* of the *compass*, and judge from it, as it is a fair criterion of all the other Reform Colleges in the United States. Permit me, if you please, to introduce the following FACTS in regard to this Institution to prove that it is not "irregular practice," for the Faculty there are competent to give, are prepared to give, and do give their students a *thorough medical education*.

In February, 1852, the Legislature of Georgia appropriated the sum of $5000 to the college. With this amount, together with liberal donations from the city of Macon, and from the friends of our cause, the Trustees were enabled to purchase a splendid and massive building, the original cost of which was $32,700. On the 17th of April, 1854, the college edifice was destroyed by fire. With the insurance money, and a liberal donation from the citizens of Macon, it was rebuilt in a style and manner entirely adapted to college purposes; constituting one of the most commodious and conveniently arranged medical

colleges in the United States. After the rebuilding there were remaining nearly $2000, to which the Faculty added another $1000. This amount was expended in apparatus, preparations, and such other facilities as were deemed most necessary.

In February, 1856, the Legislature of Georgia granted a second appropriation of $5000. About $4000 of this has been expended for additional facilities, leaving a sufficient amount in the treasury to procure such new preparations and apparatus as progressive discoveries and improvements may introduce. The chemical and philosophical apparatus was manufactured by James Green, 422 Broadway, N. Y., the best apparatus as progressive discoveries and and most accurate maker in the United States, if not in the world, the whole under the personal supervision of the incumbent of the chemical department of the college, he having twice visited New York for that purpose.

The anatomical preparations, and those for comparative anatomy were constructed by Dr. Auzoux, of Paris, and imported directly from his establishment by the Institution. The specimens in morbid anatomy were prepared by M. Thibert, of Paris. In addition to these facilities in the chemical, anatomical, physiological and pathological departments, each branch taught in the college is provided with instruments, specimens, and other fixtures for its complete elucidation.

The institution is now, 1857, in the most prosperous condition. The last graduating class numbered twenty-one. Each session commences on the first Monday in November, and closes the 1st of March following. The Faculty are men of experience, faithfulness, and ability, and at present consist of

L. Bankston, M. D., Professor of Physiology and Pathology.

J. T. Coxe, M. D., Professor of Principles and Practice of Medicine.

M. S. Thomson, M. D., Professor of Obstetrics, Diseases of Women and Children, and Materia Medica.

I. N. Loomis, A. M., M. D., Professor of Chemistry, Botany, Pharmacy, Microscopy.

I. M. Comings, A. M., M. D., Professor of Anatomy and Surgery.

O. A. Lochrane, Esq., M. D., Professor of Medical Jurisprudence and Therapeutics.

TERMS.

Entire fees for tickets to Lectures,	$100
Matriculation (once only), . .	5
Anatomical Ticket, . . .	10

Payable invariably in cash advance, at the opening of the session. Graduation fee, payable before examination, $25.

REQUISITES FOR GRADUATION.

Each candidate for graduation must have attended two courses of lectures in this college, or one in this, and one in some other respectable medical college, or in addition to one course in this college, he must have been engaged in a respectable practice for at least three years, and must read and defend before the Faculty, a dissertation on some medical subject.

Thus we see that the statement of that medical "gentleman" (!) is false, for I have proven from the *record* that the endowment of the Reform College of Georgia was not an "unblushing recognition of downright quackery;" not, at any rate, so "*unblushing*" as his falsehood. Probably that medical "*gentleman*" (!) is one of the disappointed *crew*, himself. Would he not like to have had *sugar-plums* to the tune of ten thousand dollars! Answer comes from the "*Railroad City.*" I would hope that I'll "*git*" it this year.

A word more, Messrs. Editors. I have no idea you would willingly misrepresent the Reform College of Georgia. Why, let me ask, should not this Reform College be endowed when the Medical College of Georgia, at Augusta, has received twenty seven thousand dollars (27,000) from the State Treasury! and also almost every institution, both scientific and literary, in the State, have received more or less aid from the State! Would it have been right, under those circumstances, to have refused the Reform Medical College? Let thy conscience speak, and it will say it was a judicious expenditure.

(Communicated for the Medical World.)

TANNATE OF IRON.

The Tannate of Iron is of such excellent use as a tonic, as a collutery and gargarism, for puerperal thrush and quinsy, and as a decisive remedy for the lesions of the intestines, in typhoid fever, dysentery, chronic diarrhœa, and lientery, that I wish to point out to the "medical world" an easy and elegant mode of preparing it, which I hope will facilitate its production and use. I have verified several methods of producing it, and suggest the following as the best: Tannic acid, 1 part; sesqui carbonate of iron, *precip.*,

3 parts. Triturate together dry, moisten to the consistency of a soft pill-mass, with pure water; dry, triturate and moisten again, spread it thin on a plate of glsss, and dry for use. (The drying to be effected in an ordinary temperature 80°+160.)

This preparation, which contains an excess of the sesquioxide, is in the present form eligible for making powders, pills, or electuaries, but is divested of this *excess* by forming a tincture with dilute alchohol 0.50, gr. XVI per ℥—which tincture can be dried on a glass plate, at 160° or formed into mixtures, juleps, or syrups, as required by the physician. I recommend it as a chalybeate of the most extensive and useful application in therapeutics. It has the advantage of mixing without decomposition with cinchona krameria, and other substances containing tonnic acid.

Respectfully, &c., W. F. TEULON.

Boston, Sept. 1857.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.

Researches on Primary Pathology, and the Origin and Laws of Epidemics; Deducing from the Phenomena observed, and from Facts well established in Medical Science, the Inane Cause, Scorbutic Nature, and Essential Unity of Disease. In Two Volumes. BY M. L. KNAPP, M. D. &c. Morborum omnium unum et idem modus est, locus autem differentiam facit. HIPPOCRATES.—There is but one fever * * * I use the term *diseases* in conformity to custom, for, properly speaking, disease is as much a unit as fever. RUSH. Philadelphia, 1857. Printed for the Author.

The above is the title of a work being published by the author by subscription. The first volume, containing 312 pages, is published, and laid on our table. It treats of Epidemic Cholera, Cholera Infantum, and Nursing Sore Mouth, holding them to be of scorbutic character. The argument is well sustained from bed-side observations, running through a cycle of twenty years. The style is vigorous, and the new views entertained by the researcher are worthy of profound attention.

This theory of the scorbutic origin of diseases is not new in reference to a large class of ailments, but certainly is, in regard to Epidemic Cholera, and the other anomalous affections treated of in this work. The writings of the older authors, as Willis, Boerhaave, Hoffman, and others, abound with such views, and how far the theory is founded in truth, has never been settled. The question has never been submitted to the more finished state of professional science of the present day. How far the opposing authority of Sydenham, Lind, and other old authors is to be regarded as binding, under the new issues which physiology and chemistry have sprung, is an important matter. They had no analysis of the human blood and tissues; they knew not what were the constituents of bone, or any solid or fluid of the body; they knew not what were the constituents of food and drink, or how the body was fabricated from the elements. They only knew from observation that the system became scorbutic when deprived of sufficient food, and especially fresh vegetables, but the reason why, was a dead letter to them, and even to this day, the true theory of the cause and pathology of scorbutus has not been explained, unless we may look for it in these Researches.

The second volume of Dr. Knapp's work, now ready for the press, treats of this important subject, the Scorbutic Diathesis, and, as will be seen by the extract he has furnished us, examines the matter, how far the old question of the scorbutic origin of disease is entitled to respect, and how far all diseases are in this category. The essential unity of disease is not a new idea. It was held by Hippocrates. and also by Rush; but the scorbutic theory of that one primary pathology, is wholly original with Dr. Knapp. We shall look with much interest to the completion of the work, as the Researches bear evidences of great labor, close thought, and a philosophic method of investigation.

"*The scorbutic condition is the primary pathological state.*—It is apparent from what precedes, that the beginning of the scorbutic condition is the initiatory stage of all general or spontaneous disease, or the primary pathological condition, and that its essence is a want, fault, or an impairment of nutrition. We shall consider more fully hereafter the subject of the elements of nutrition. Suffice it in this connection to say, that the ingesta must contain all the elements of the tissues, and especially the mineral salts of both the fluids and solids, or they are defective. For the development and repair of bone there must be a sufficiency of lime and phosphoric acid furnished in the food, for they can never be the products of the process of digestion; and so of all the other component elements of both solids and fluids. Physiology and organic chemistry enable us now-a-days to see clearly, to know positively, and to appreciate fully these truths, which the old writers on scurvy were ignorant of."

We have reserved the balance of the extract furnished us for an original article in our next issue.

How this question of the scorbutic origin of disease arose, and how it formerly stood. — Many of the readers of the foregoing essays, which have been published serially, have endorsed our conclusions fully as to the scorbutic pathology of the diseases treated of, but others, again, have ignored them, out and out. In order to enable the reader to decide this matter correctly, we have taken the pains to write this treatise, and to post up the pathology of the scorbutic diathesis to the present time, by the lights of physiology and chemistry, what the old authors could not possibly do; and, furthermore, we herein give an epitome of nearly all the writers on scurvy extant, to serve the reader as a standard of comparison. To come to the point at which we now aim, where this epitome is consulted, the reader will find that the old authors believed and taught that a latent scorbutic taint or diathesis was the fruitful source, basis, or cause of a large class, if not of all diseases; that is, many of them held this view, while others strenuously opposed it, as derogatory to common sense and sound philosophy, and furthermore, as establishing a platform for a routinism in practice, of murderous and most horrible tendency. The oppositionists, those opposed to this new light, the party grown gray in the faith of "occult qualities in the air" being the cause of diseases, fought bravely for what they sincerely believed, no doubt, to be the ancient landmarks of the profession hurling their anathemas at the generalizationists, intent on crushing out the wide-spread heresy; and they did finally prevail, or rather the matter went by default toward the close of the last century, as fruit-growing, horticulture, commerce, and the peaceful arts of rural industry changed the course of living; and this, more powerful than arguments or physic, banished the most commonly conceded forms of scurvy from the land; and the introduction of lemon-juice, through the efforts of Sir Gilbert Blane and others, into the naval service, extinguished the recognized nautical varieties of it from the sea.

It must be borne in mind here, in order to fully appreciate this matter, that scurvy, when it made its *supposed* debut, in the sixteenth century, seemed to be, and was held to be, a new disease, unknown to the ancients, and that it rapidly spread over the entire known world and installed itself everywhere, becoming indigenous to every clime, and aping every other disease; and, as the old-fashioned, well-known forms of disease were continually seen to arise or spring from this new taint, or to be developed from the scorbutic diathesis, there was no way of explaining and settling the matter, but in either admitting two origins for nearly all diseases, viz.: the assumed ancient origin, veiled in impenetrable obscurity, and also the modern, palpable, *scorbutic* origin; or else, in denying the new-fangled, scorbutic origin altogether, and turning to and beating down scurvy, and making it behave systematically and orderly, as one form of disease among many, and swearing that it was not a Proteus.

These were the respective positions of the two wings of the profession on this question, one, two, and three centuries ago, or say, running through a cycle of two hundred years, more or less; neither party wanting talents of the highest order; Engalenus, Willis, Boerhaave, Hoffman, and others, being on the scorbutic side of the question; and Sydenham, Kramer, Lind, and others, opposed to the generalizationists, and their manifest inconsistency of two origins, or causes of the same forms of disease. These were the erroneous grounds on which both parties stood—the generalizationists attributing diseases to scorbutus, and the ancient, unknown sources or causes; and the oppositionists to the ancient, unknown, or occult sources alone: these were the *causas belli* between our great forefathers in physic, and thus the combatants were marshalled and arrayed, and thus they gave each other battle; and thus, verily, as the Scripture says, the race was not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, but the victory of the oppositionists was finally achieved, as we have said, through the march of civilization, horticulture, and lemon-juice. Nobody has since had any clearer or better notion of the true cause or causes of either sporadic, endemic, or epidemic diseases than formerly. So far as etiology is concerned, the hypothesis of "occult qualities," "malaria," "epidemic influence," "the judgments of God," — synonyms of Egyptian darkness, are still the inheritance of physicians in the middle of the nineteenth century!

Now our philosophy affords an explanation and a rationale to the views of both of those old parties, by showing that all diseases arise from *impaired nutrition* as the starting point, which is *primary pathology*, or a general dyscrasia synonymous with the latent *scorbutic diathesis*.

Thus we escape endorsing the errors and

inconsistencies of either party, while we plant ourself on the eternal rock of this induction, that where nutrition fails, from whatever cause, scorbutic pathology begins, generalizing disease to a known and adequate cause through all the world's history. We are satisfied that this is, indeed, the truth; that the insidious, latent, morbid condition of the system, known as the scorbutic taint, or diathesis, was, is, ever has been, and ever will be, the *fons et origo* of all general diseases, or of universal pestilence. This we expect to make clear in the following sketches of scorbutic pathology. Sketches, we say, for we shall be less regardful of system and formal arrangement than of facts and inductions bearing on this great question.

The first link in the morbid chain, then, is a predisposition to disease not appreciable by our senses. The microscope has not revealed the so-called lesions of function that are erroneously held to precede lesions of structure (irritation of Broussais), much less is the naked eye able to detect any alteration in the tissues. Chemical analysis has not, as yet, solved this problem, whatever we may hope from this method of investigation in future. We must, therefore, call to our aid *inductive reasoning* to prove our position, or fail, in the present state of the science of medicine. Let us undertake to reason out the first link in the morbid chain, then, from facts well attested and established.

Lind says, "Putrid gums, a stinking breath, and loosening of the teeth (pathognomonic symptoms of scurvy), we find also in persons who, by long fasting, are deprived of a supply of fresh chyle," all the other conditions being favorable to health.

Again, "I have always observed men of the rigorous orders in the Church of Rome greatly scorbutic. They are remarkable for rotten gums (part of which is commonly eaten away), want of teeth, and a most offensive breath."

And again. "The same symptoms (as above given) are observable in those who are starved to death." (Second edition, Lind on Scurvy, p. 269.)

And yet again. "I am fully confirmed in my opinion that whatever weakens the constitution, and especially the organs of digestion, (whatever arrests nutrition), may serve, without any other cause, to introduce this disease, in a slighter or higher degree, even among such as live upon fresh vegetables, [hear], or the most wholesome diet [hear, hear], and in the purest air." [Hear, hear, hear.] (Third edition, Lind on scurvy, p. 516). Showing conclusively that the scorbutic diathesis is the result of insufficient nutrition, and that the organs of digestion and assimilation may be unable to appropiate even the most proper kind and quality in some instances, though all other conditions be right.

We have also observed the appearances spoken of in fasting orders, and have known sudden death to follow, only explicable by the law of sudden death seen in scorbutus.

These data, then, are *facts* on which we may safely reason without the possibility of fallacy; thus, insufficient food or nourishment inlays scorbutus, or the scorbutic diathesis, or, as some say, a disposition to scurvy: "the children at the well known school at Tooting were mostly *disposed* to scurvy from bad diet before the cholera broke out among them."—(Barnes.) Now it is well known that the poor children at the Tooting School in London are "farmed out" to the lowest bidder—that all kinds of provisions were scarce and of high price at the time of this occurrence, the raging of cholera following the Irish famine—and that the keeper was arrested and lodged in Newgate to await his trial for *half-starving* the poor children, and proceeded against by the Coroner, Mr. Wakley, editor of the *Lancet*.

Those data are sufficient—no sound mind at this day doubts,or should doubt, the fact that the scorbutic taint is, and may always be, and must necessarily be, induced by a want of proper and sufficient food or nourishment; and as this diathesis is uniformly and undeviatingly the result of impairment of the nutritive function, standing in the relation of the *invariable effect*, we here see cause and effect as plainly as the relation can be presented; it therefore has the force of an unerring law—it is a law in pathology. Now, although no morbid appearances are appreciable by our senses in the beginning, soon aided by the microscope, is there any one who doubts that the scorbutic state has a beginning; or, that it is begun prior to any objective signs appearing in the mouth, or to any appreciable alteration, either functional derangement or abnormity of structure? No, nobody can doubt this truth. This state, then, which we can only say from inductive reasoning *must* and *does exist* antecedent to any appreciable morbid condition, is *the first link in the chain of disease*, or the *predisposing cause*, of which we have all heard so much and never before could picture in the mind.

Our philosophy, then, clears away the fog, smoke, and all obfuscations in pathology, digs to the bottom and unfolds *primary pathology*, the root of all diseases; for all the *known causes* of pestilence, as we have shown, produce their effects by impairing the nutritive function; and we do not admit any *hypothetical* causes, such as a supposed malaria, epidemic influence, or occult qualities in the air, &c.; these terms are only cloaks for our ignorance that hinder the progress of science.

FLOATING FACTS.

A New Method of Managing Criminals.—Criminals of the very worst description are sent by the government of Naples to the Island of Vulcana, one of the smallest of a group of eleven, called the Lipari Islands, where they prepare sulphur for commerce. No guards are employed, but each one of the wretched outcasts of civilization is provided with a mistress! Jealousies give rise to frequent quarrels among them, and even atrocious murders, says a traveller; but from their position and desperate wickedness, such acts excite but little, if any attention, and accessions are constantly made of new recruits of the same character.

Vulcana, the abode of those desperadoes, whose paroxysms of fury cannot be subdued by chains in the galleys, is the same island where Virgil located the forge of Vulcan, in which the Cyclops forged thunderbolts for Jupiter. Stromboli, a burning mountain, which occasionally belches out smoke, flame, or lava, within the bowels of which internal fires are raging and roaring with fearful indications of terrific violence, is near by this penal pandemonium.

A Cannon Ball in the Thigh.—Dr. Alex'r Anderson, Surgeon of His Majesty's 12th Reg., at the siege of Seringapatum, relates the following surprising circumstance:

A shot from a heavy gun came rolling along the ground, like a spent ball, towards the trenches. It rolled over that part of the banquet under which a lieutenant happened to be lying down, and buried itself under the skin and muscles of his hip. He was immediately put into a dooly and carried to Dr. Anderson's, but upon laying down the dooly, the bearers complained of the difficulty they had in carrying it from the trenches, owing to the heaviness of one side. On running his fingers into the wound, the Doctor was greatly surprised to find a mass of iron of such unusual size, that he concluded it must have been a part of a shell which was lodged within. The officer being moribund, the shot was not cut out till after he died, when, to the utter astonishment of the medical staff, it proved to be unequivocally a *thirty two pound shot.*

Preservation of Dead Bodies.—It was a great secret at one time in Italy, that the bodies of men, or the lower animals, might be so well preserved as to appear to be alive and well. It was then, as it may be still, accomplished in this wise. Dissolve ten pounds of arsenic in twenty of water, with which is mixed some coloring material to give it the hue of blood. Inject the arterial as full as it will bear, and all tendency to decomposition appears to be at once arrested. An American traveller states that a young officer was killed in a duel at Naples, some years since, and in consequence of having died in that wicked manner, the Church would not give immediate leave for the funeral. The body was consequently injected in the manner mentioned, and so perfectly too, that being in uniform and seated in a chair, those unacquainted with the fact that it was a corpse, of course supposed it was a live officer.

The Plague at Marsailles.—Twice in the 15th, ten in the 16th, and twice in the 17th century, the plague raged at Marseilles, so that at the last period, in the month of August, from 300 to 400 persons died daily. In the first week of September 1000 died, and, according to an official statement, one-half of the then population of the city, 30,137, were swept away by that dreadful scourge. Venice lost 100,000 and Florence 60,000 by the same destructive malady, for which medicine offered no resistance or mitigation.

Piece of Shell in the Muscles of the Abdomen.—John Brown, a private, wounded at the battle of Waterloo, June 18, 1815, presented, on inspection, a laceration of the glutæi muscles of the right side, extending over the spine of the ilium, which was traced to the transverse muscles of the abdomen. Three weeks afterward the patient detected a hard substance at the terminus of the wound, which led to an exploration and the safe extraction of a fragment of an iron shell that weighed nine ounces and a half, averdupois.

Feebleness of American Women.—Very grave observations are made by travellers and people of observation at home, respecting the singular and melancholy fact, that the women of the United States are constantly deteriorating physically. They have minds, but such feeble bodies that it is hazardous to take them for wives. They are no sooner married than the house becomes a hospital. Physicians' bills, and the difficulty of procuring nurses the year round, may explain to some extent why there are seven thousand more females than males in Boston, and rising of thirty-three thousand, most of whom are single, in the State of Massachusetts. They are actually organized for breathing fresh air, exercising their muscles, like other human beings. A feeble, sickly, degenerate race of women must necessarily be productive of a puny, cringing, cowardly generation of men. England and Germany are the countries for splendid women, in whom both body and mind are normally developed.

Plague of Carbuncles.—Between the years 1582 and 1583, ten thousand persons died in the city of Malaga, of carbuncles, which the physicians could not arrest in their fatal course. Malaga has been the scene of very extraordinary sufferings, in her past history, from the visitation of pestilences. In 1580, an epidemic, catarrh, swept the inhabitants off at the fearful rate of eighty a day, for a long time, and in 1597 a pestilence was introduced that continued three entire years, which so nearly depopulated the city that draughts were necessarily made upon the country for people to manage the public affairs and protect the property of the 40,000 who had died.

Protracted Life.—Ann Cook lately died at Folkstone, England, at the age of 104 years. She was born Sept. 13, 1753, in the reign of King George II., the present Queen's great-great-grandfather, and has consequently lived under the reign of five successive sovereigns, including the whole of the longest reign since the Norman Conquest.

Married and Single in Madrid.—When the census was taken in 1831, there were in the city, 211,127, exclusive of 49,400 in the surrounding villages. There were 66,740 unmarried men and women within the municipality. The number of children born out of wedlock are annually sufficient to keep a foundling hospital always full.

Artificial Elbow-Joint.—Wm. K. Foster had the whole of one elbow-joint torn out by an accident. He was taken to the hospital, where Dr. Kimball, advised by Drs. Graves and Dickey, proceeded to saw off the fragmentary bones, shortening them some two and a half inches, and then uniting them, so as to make a new joint. Strange as it may seem, the wound did well and healed, and Mr. Foster has a good elbow-joint and arm. He moves the joint with perfect ease, though not quite so fully as the other, and can, as he says, hold out twenty-two and a half pounds with the hand at arm's length. The arm is now nearly three and a half inches shorter than the other, and is a good and reliable arm for all the purposes of labor to which Mr. Foster is called.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

A woman in Baden Baden, August 9, was delivered of her eighteenth child.

A woman in Virginia has been discovered who is the mother of twenty-one sons and five daughters.

Professor Mitchell, the State Geologist of North Carolina, recently went out alone on a professional examination of the Black Mountains in that State, and did not return. His body has since been found. It seems that he was walking on the edge of a precipice, when his feet slipped; he caught at a branch of laurel, but it broke, and he fell. To his exertions the prosperity of the State is as much due as to any other man. He died a martyr to science and scientific knowledge.

Dr. J. R. Nichols, of Haverhill, Mass., a gentleman of distinction as a chemist, has received the appointment of Professor of Chemistry, in Randolph College, at Macon, Ga.

The French Academy of Science has distributed 50,000 francs for discoveries or useful applications in the healing art, the present year.

The Cuvean prize has been awarded, this season, to Prof. Richard Owen.

The *American Journal of Pharmacy* maintains its original spirit of enterprise. There is something in it besides me and mine. Physicians would find it an extremely valuable periodical, abounding in facts, statements and suggestions that doubly arm a medical practitioner for his responsibilities. Send to the publishers for a copy to inspect.

Prizes for researches in experimental physiology have been divided between Drs. Waller, Davaine, and Fabre. The last discovered that larvæ, with which the Cevceri's family feed their young, are struck with a paralysis, which permits them to live a long time, but destroys the power of resistance and locomotion. Thus, when the eggs are hatched, the young brood have the luxury of fresh provision! This is quite equal to chloroform, — because the grub thus wounded and prepared for future food, is so completely bereft of feeling as not to be sensible of pain when the torment commences — of being eaten alive!

Dr. J. S. Newbury, of Ohio, goes out physician and geologist, and Dr. Molhausen, naturalist, of the U. S. Exploring Expedition to the Colorado river.

Prof. W. E. Moore and Prof. Francis, both of Iowa, on a scientific expedition, in company, are represented to have settled a quarrel in Ecuador by a duel, in which the latter was shot dead at the first fire. The question is asked — were they physicians?

Messrs. S. S. & W. Wood, 389 Broadway, New York, have issued another copious catalogue of medical works, embracing an immense collection of French authors of celebrity. That is the place to purchase medical publications.

With accustomed regularity, the *American Veterinary Journal* makes its rounds, once a month, freighted with curious and useful matter. Why is there not enterprise enough in Boston or New York, to commence an annual course of lectures in veterinary medicine and surgery? It would be a popular movement, and the institution well sustained. The energy which the profession once exhibited in the establishment of institutions of various kinds, where science was learned and taught, is certainly on the wane. Selfishness has got the control, so that nothing succeeds profitably that is not intended to be the avant courier of some clique or combination, in pursuit of a glory only to be obtained by purchase.

The Eclectic, and so-called Reform Schools, have several works just ready for publication, explanatory of their systems of practice in medicine and surgery.

Why do not the physicians subscribe for the *Journal of Science and Art?* If they would give it their countenance in the way of subscriptions, they would have an ample return for their money. It is a learned production, — published quarterly, and conducted jointly, by six editors, who are numbered among the most learned men of this country.

The *Medical Independant*, conducted by Drs. Gun and Robinson, is an excellent periodical — filled with appropriate papers, and its editorials are written in a spirit of dignity and kindness. That is the way to succeed. The *Peninsular Journal of Medicine and the Collateral Sciences*, published in the same city, is always instructive and spirited. Some of the best medical serials of the United States come monthly from the West. Prosperity attend them.

An idea is abroad, based on a passage in Longinus, ch. xxii, that the circulation of the blood was actually known in the lifetime of Plato.

Uniform good health is still spoken of by practitioners as a kind of fatality of the year 1857.

Dr. Charles Chase, of Chelsea, near Boston, who has decided to move to Deerfield, N. H., has been presented with a horse and chaise by hs friends, — an appropriate and deserving memorial of regard. Dr. Chase is a man who does as he would be done by.

Dr. Green's pamphlet respecting his success in passing a probang into the larynx, appears to be well received.

Several publishers have works in press that may possess merit. A decided opinion can be given on that point hereafter.

Both cholera and yellow fever have occasionly been recognized in South America, of late. In Russia, by the last advices, the former disease was subsiding.

The severity of a cough is thought to be considerably modified by vaccination, when other means have failed; there is nothing new in this, but the practice — always a good one — has been too much neglected by physicians.

That most expensive and useless institution in New York, the Quarantine, which embarrasses commerce while it enriches one officer, is becoming an expensive affair to the State, even before the new buildings are erected, and a source of small quarrels on Staten Island, that will be as lasting as the outbreaks on the entailed property up the river.

Several reputable physicians of New England, who have become both disgusted with professional hypocrisy, and discouraged in the attempt to obtain an honest living by the practice of medicine, have abandoned it and located themselves on the rich lands of the Far West, where some of them have already found themselves suddenly very comfortable in this world's goods, by a gradual rise in the value of their property.

Spiritual medium doctors and doctresses are quite numerous in Boston, and doing a thriving business. People go to them for prescriptions directly from the invisibles, for which they promptly pay better fees than they would be willing to give the regular physicians of the city, whose advice would be serviceable. So entirely favorable has the season been thus far, that physicians generally have had but few demands upon them professionally.

Most of the revamped medical books, — that is, new editions—no way improved, are so well appreciated as not to sell. It is no discovery that these are tricks in trade.

Dr. John C. Clan, of Stuyvesant, N. Y., announces the discovery of a remedy for hydrophobia—and he has had in a practice of thirty years nearly *three hundred hydrophobic cases! and never failed to cure even after spasms!* What will Mrs. Grundy sayto that?

Mr. Fowler's *Illustrated Phrenological Almanac*, for 1855, contains many instructive things to physicians, whether they believe in the doctrine or not.

A physician is said to have been recently threatened by a prosecution for malpractice, by his patient, a lady of New York, for prescribing beer and ale for her.

Singular as it may appear, nearly all the scientific men of England, with a few exceptions, have been and still are found in the medical profession. The Athenæum calls lustily upon the Universities to recognize science, and confer degrees of science according to individual merit in the various departments of natural history, chemistry, geology, ethnology, &c. &c. as well as medicine and music. The last is quite unknown to American colleges, although they annually confer LL. D. on some of the greatest political asses on the continent.

The Female Medical School of Boston is preparing, with brightening prospects, for the lecture season.

The *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal*, which has sustained a high character under the editorial charge of the learned Dr. Bennett Dowler, has become the property of Drs. Stone, Jones and Chaille. A loss of Dr. Dowler's pen would be absolutely fatal to its prosperity, and we are particularly gratified to learn that the Journal will retain his valuable services.

Since the preceding items were collected, a fow cases of yellow fever have appeared at the South.

Physicians are multiplying. Is it good or bad news to those already in the field?

Messrs. Blanchard & Lea's catalogue of medical and surgical publications, making an octavo pamphlet of thirty-two pages, presents such a copious list of rare and valuable professional works as to make a poor man with himself rich enough to purchase a library out of the collection.

Life Illustrated, a paper of rare interest, is distressed because we Americans don't have more children. Foreigners alone, it says, in about so many words, are prolific. Further, that young ladies are educated to sing, dance and play—marry at fifteen and are divorced at twenty!

Gen. William Walker, the military adventurer, whose operations have made a sensation in the world, studied medicine awhile; but a spirit of enterprise for deeds of daring, prompted him to abandon the quiet pursuits of science. He is only five feet four inches tall, and weighs but one hundred and twenty-five pounds, one ounce and two pennyweights.

The work on the building and grounds of the Insane Hospital at Northampton, is going forward as rapidly as possible. The Commissioners' term of office expires Oct. 1st, and any work remaining unfinished at that time will be completed under the direction of the Trustees. The Hospital will be opened Jan. 1st, 1858.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, OCTOBER, 1857.

Opposing Medical Forces. — Notwithstanding the fulminations of indignant and horrified medical conservatives, at the monstrously unnatural and ever to be deplored action of the municipal authorities of Chicago, in placing a hospital in charge of an equal number of homœopathists and their ferocious and inveterate foes, the same proposition has been brought before the governors of a public institution in New York, and it would not be at all surprising if it were accomplished. The very act of opposition is the power by which the opposers of the measure would be defeated.

A perpetual warfare against homœopathy, gives to it vitality, and is daily extending the area of its triumphs.

There is but one successful mode in this country of checking the career of men or doctrines, and that is to say nothing about either. Pugnacious controversy, undying hatred promulgated on every occasion, gives success to any cause which might otherwis have failed to attract notice.

Now read the New York transaction:

The Board of Ten Governors met on Tuesday, August 4, C. Godfrey Gunther, President, in the chair, and a quorum present.

Mr. B. F. Pinckney offered the following resolution, remarking that he thought the matter should be thoroughly discussed :—

Resolved, That it be referred to a special committee to report upon the propriety of so amending the law organizing the Bellevue Hospital medical department, so as to provide that one half of such institution shall be set apart for the practice of homœopathy, under the care of a medical board nominated by the Homœopathy Society of this city, and that each case admitted in said Hospital be transmitted to the care of the allopathic and homœopathic department alternately.

This motion excited a lively debate.

Mr. Oliver remarked that he was heartily in favor of the movement. He had had homœopathic physicians in his family for the last seventeen years, and was satisfied that it was a superior system to allopathy. He had a case of scarlet fever among his children, which was cured by the new treatment in a week.

Mr. Smith objected to the resolution. He did not believe that any authority in the medical world favored this new system. Where were the distinguished physicians who approved of this system!

Mr. Pinckney mentioned several well-known physicians in that city.

Mr. Smith continued, and urged that the men who were committed to this new system were persons who could not gain a livelihood as regular physicians. He knew of three cases of scarlet fever in his own family that had terminated fatally when treated homœopathically. Where were the names among the homœopathists like Mott, Metcalf and Parker? If the system was true, why did not these men come forward and say so? He thought the whole thing a humbug.

Mr. Tieman remarked that he had been brought up in the drug business, and he was satisfied that their use did no good, and in fact allopathy was quackery, and the noxious medicines the so called regular physicians used were discovered by the old alchemists in their efforts to find the philosopher's stone. He was satisfied there was much truth in homœopathy, but the prejudice against it he knew was very strong. They all knew of the physician that was called to give his opinion on homœopathy. He said it was a humbug, but subsequently admitted that he knew nothing about it and never investigated its character. Mr. Tieman believed that the number of cures in Bellevue Hospital would be increased ten per cent. by the disuse of drugs and liquor, and the adoption of the homœopathic remedies. He was by all means in favor of giving the system a chance.

Mr. B. F. Pinckney thought it was the business of the Board to care for the sick without reference to conflicting systems of medicine. He wanted homœopathy tried, because he thought it was preferable to allopathy. This resolution was one simply of inquiry. The bills for liquor and medicine at Bellevue Hospital were enormous, and in his opinion there were drugs enough used in that institution to poison the whole city. He was astonished that any one came out alive. [Laughter.]

The resolution was then adopted by the following vote:

Ayes.—Gunther, Tieman, Oliver, B. F. Pinckney, W. F. Pinckney, Anderson.—Total 6.

Nays.—Smith, Dugro, and Maloney. Total 3.

The Chair then appointed Messrs B. F. Pinckney, Smith and Maloney, as the special committee.

The Board then adjourned for two weeks.

Ominous Indications.—Since the last meeting of the American Medical Association, there has been a low rumbling beneath the surface in several Journals, as though there were some explosive elements kept in subjection by the general prudence of those who prefer peace to civil war in the medical forces of the country. The September number of the Atalanta Medical & Surgical Journal is quite open-hearted in regard to the dissatisfaction that is germinating at different points of the compass. An impression is gaining ground that the Association is merely a piece of curious mechanism controlled by a few medical schools,—having in view their particular profit—or at least, dominant influence. Others intimate that certain individuals are made quite prominent by the assistance of annual meetings, who would be small stars at best, if their brilliancy in the medical firmament emanated from their own dark minds. And again, it is boldly said the American Medical Association cannot and should not control the American medical profession.

But there is something more, and behind all this, that has given rise to a dissatisfaction that will require considerable generalship to allay. It is the obvious eliquism which controls the selection and election of delegates to the annual meeting. Gentleman of high character, but modest, unambitious of such distinctions as naturally grow out of being a representative to that great and truly learned body, have over and over again denounced the system of favoritism and caste, which has determined who should and who should not go as a delegate.

Re-electing the same persons from year to year, leads to the conclusion, either that all the medical intelligence of the region from whence the elected member comes, is embodied in those favored mortals, or that nobody remains at home when they are away. Rather than a new man should go, and thus possibly impress the Association with the dreadful idea, so injurious to the aspirations of a mutual professional admiration society, that knowledge is diffusible, and that the Creator has actually bestowed brains where it would be gratifying never to have the fact discovered.

We are among the warm friends and advocates of

the Association, and clearly foresee the amount of national good that must accrue through its instrumentality, if its original objects are not perverted or misrepresented. The profession is so much at sixes and sevens throughout the whole country, that if harmony cannot be established now, by the wisdom of a representative assembly made up from all the respectable physicians and surgeons in the United States, it never can. When the season again comes round for choosing delegates, let no respectable, worthy man be allowed to complain that he has been unjustly neglected, or his reasonable claims to participate in this very important organization for advancing the science of medicine and the respectability, usefulness, honor and dignity of the medical profession in America overlooked.

To Subscribers.—It has been stated on a former occasion, that this periodical is the exclusive property of Messrs. Damrell & Moore, and George Coolidge, who control its destiny. The editors have no pecuniary interest in the publication whatever, and whether the numbers shall appear once in seven days, monthly, or at longer intervals, depends entirely on the proprietors. They are grateful to the profession for the support they have thus far given to the enterprise. Such are the embarrassments in every department of industry at the present moment, throughout the whole country, that the owners of the Medical World feel justified in making alterations and modifications for the mutual advantage of themselves and their patrons, since nothing is lost to either party by adopting a proper system of economy.

A long absence of one of the editors during the summer, and the departure of the other the past week for an Oriental voyage, with the prospect of losing the returned traveller, who has also determined to revisit Europe, necessarily has a bearing upon the future course to be pursued.

In the mean while a considerable sum has become due the office which should be speedily remitted. The vitality of the press depends essentially on prompt payment. Subscriptions by mail may be safely forwarded, and receipts will be immediately returned.

Whether those who have thus far conducted this journal can give their attention to it beyond occasional contributions from those distant regions of the globe which they purpose ultimately to explore, cannot with certainty be settled. There is an amount of literary and professional talent, however, in our midst, equal to the demands of society, and when circumstances require, it can be called into activity.

MARRIAGES.

In Jonesville, Illinois, Enoch P. Jones, M. D., to Miss L. A. Ellis.

In Belfast, Ireland, Blamhand Ross, M. D., to Miss C. C. Knox.

In New York, Dr. J. M. Austin to Miss A. K. Homer. Dr. H. P. Stearns, of Marlborough, Mass. to Mrs. A. L. Stover, of Scotland.

H. T. M. Cate, M. D. of Milford, N. H. to Miss M. D. Plant.

A. H. Flanders, M. D. of Danville, Kentucky, to Miss G. R. Tappan.

DEATHS.

At Florence, Nebraska, Dr. A. H. Hardcastle, injured by the explosion of a cannon, and died soon after.

At Alexandria, Virginia, Dr. Lugenbeel, formerly in the service of the American Colonization Society, in Africa, and at the time of his death, Secretary in the office of the Society, Washington City.

At Lagrange, Mo., Dr. William E. Ellery, 44.

At Nuremburg, Germany, Dr. Mayer, a celebrity in literature, and extensively known as a translator of languages.

At Ware, Mass. Dr. L. F. Griggs, formerly of Brimfield.

At Brighton, England, the celebrated Dr. Marshall Hall, known over the world for his professional writings and eminent physiological attainments at St. John N. B.

Dr. Parker, of San Francisco, California, lost in the steamer Central America.

Dr. Henry Bates, of California, the defaulted treasurer of that State, also lost in the Central American steamer.

In Taunton, Mass., Dr. Benjamin Bilson, 84. Dr. Gibbs, of Columbus, California, and Dr. Young of San Francisco, both lost in the Central America.

In Sunderland, Mass., Dr. S. Ball, 70. In Goshen, Dr. D. Pierce, 84. In Ware, Mass., Dr. L F. Griggs,

In Boston, Mrs. Mary A. wife of Charles Morrill. M. D. of San Francisco, California.

At South Boston, Mass., Dr. Thomas Lynd.

Dr. Begaum, of San Francisco, California, lost in steamer Central America.

Dr. John Boyd, one of the oldest and most eminent physicians of St. John, died in that city on the 27th ult., at the age of 65. He was a Nova Scotian by birth, but was born of Scotch parents. He studied his profession in London under Cooper and Abernethy, and in early life was attached in his surgical capacity to the household of the Duke of Kent, the father of her present majesty. For the last thirty years and upwards he was Physician and Surgeon of the St. John Provincial Marine Hospital. He was for sixteen years President of the St. Andrew's Society.

Dr. Vogel, the celebrated African explorer, has actually been murdered. The official confirmation of the murder of Dr. Vogel at Wera, the capital of Wadi, has just been received. He was beheaded by order of the Sultan. Corporal Maguire, R. E., was murdered by a party of Tauricks some six marches to the north of Kuka. Apprehending danger, he had traced a few lines in pencil to our Vice-Consul at Murzuk, requesting him, in the event of his death, to discharge a small sum to his people. The gallant fellow made a desperate defence, and despatched several of his murderers before he fell. The melancholy events tend strongly to confirm the opinion that no profitable commerce can be opened with Central Africa over the Desert from Tunis to Tripoli. The true way must be by means of its great rivers—the Nile, the Niger, and Zambose.

THE

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A JOURNAL OF UNIVERSAL MEDICAL SCIENCE.

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Edw. Sutton Smith, M. D.
Assistant Editor.

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Edw. Sutton Smith, M. D.
Assistant Editor.

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Assistant Editor.

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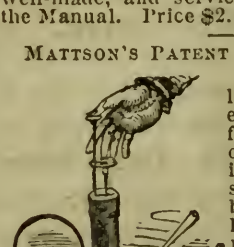

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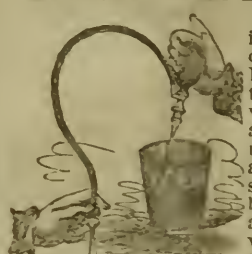

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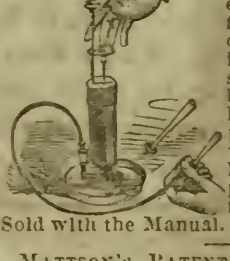

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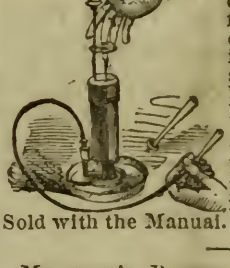

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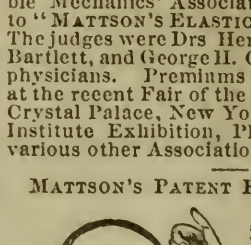

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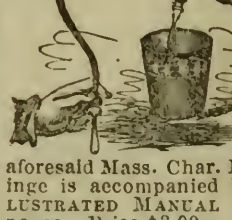

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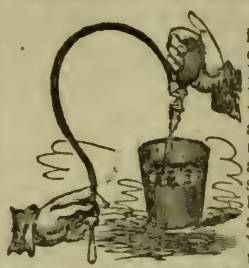

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NO. 16 DEVONSHIRE STREET.

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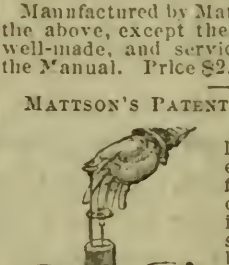

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The Publishers have been advised to issue this Journal monthly, at the close of the first volume, till the travelling season is over. One of the editors is already away, to be absent about five months, and the other must necessarily be gone from eight to ten weeks. Under these circumstances, it has been suggested that subscribers would prefer this arrangement during the warm weather of Summer, when both readers and writers are generally from home. However, this remains for after consideration.

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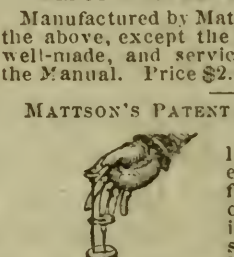

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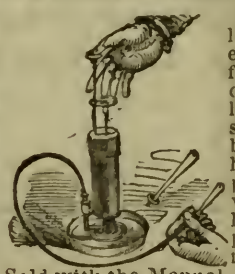

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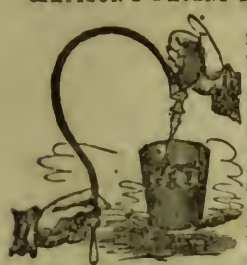

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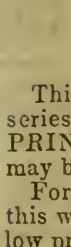

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